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Southeast Asia Report

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14 December 1984

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DEFENSE REPORT INVENTORIES SECURITY THREATS

Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 16 Oct 84 p 10

[Text]

THE most significant thing about the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence is not that our existing military forces are woefully inadequate. It is that it pinpoints the fundamental weakness of our military posture — lack of a coherent strategic doctrine. Without this our defence forces have no clear indication as to what are Australia's strategic interests. Consequently, the defence forces cannot properly equip and train themselves to defend these interests. This problem of doctrine would persist even if our defence forces were adequately funded — which clearly they are not.

As the report indicates, our defence is predicated on the ludicrous idea that our forces will always have time to prepare themselves once a threat emerges. What this doctrine really means is that Australia does not need an actual defence force, only a potential one. The labyrinthine structure of the Defence Department demonstrates this. It was specifically not designed to run a war-time military machine, but to preserve, as it were, in suspended animation a peace-time military embryo.

The suddenness with which the Falklands crisis arose shows decisively how wrong is the idea that Australia need not be prepared to defend itself until, at some indefinite

point in the future, threats finally develop.

Three areas, at present, pose potential threats which could endanger Australia's security. One is a

Soviet move on Pakistan and the Persian Gulf. The second is a Vietnamese threat to our friends in South-East Asia and the potential danger this represents to free world control of the Malacca Straits. The third is the possibility that the Marcos regime might be replaced in the medium term not by a democratic government, but by one dominated by the Maoist Communist Party of the Philippines. Unfortunately, talk about Australia's defence is conducted as though these distinct possibilities do not exist.

Defence planning, therefore, needs political vision not only to identify possible future dangers but to develop our capacity to meet them. And we need a bigger defence budget, too.

Increased defence expenditure should include, as a priority, investment in strengthening our defence industry. We need to be able to produce war materials when we are cut off from overseas supply. This means that we need technology and an export market for our defence equipment. The former can be imported to a degree as a side effect of production off-set agreements with foreign manufacturers. The latter can

come from a vigorous policy of making Australia an important arms market for its natural allies in South-East Asia.

The tragedy is that neither political party thinks defence is a sufficiently important question to bring it to the attention of Australians during the election campaign.

CSO: 4200/203

AUSTRALIA

AGRICULTURE BUREAU FORECASTS 29-PERCENT DECLINE IN PRODUCTION

Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 17 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by Liz Glasgow]

[Text] The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has forecast a grim year for farmers, with an expected decline of 29 per cent in rural production.

The latest issue of BAE Trends, released in Canberra yesterday, confirmed earlier forecasts of a substantial decline in aggregate farm income for the present financial year, after adjustment for inflation.

The real net value of rural production is predicted to decline by 29 per cent, to \$3680 million, down from the previous year's \$4894 million.

The gross value of rural production was expected to be \$14,780 million in 1984-85, down \$440 million or 3 per cent from 1983-84.

Despite improvements in general world economic conditions, commodity prices for many rural products remained depressed, the bureau said.

Rural output in 1984-85 would be 5 per cent below last year's record level, and gross farm product, in constant 1979-80 prices, was expected to fall by 7 per cent.

Continued cool, moist conditions during August and September had improved yield prospects for winter grains.

But due to downward revision of prospects for other commodities, in particular wool, the overall outlook for the farm sector was only marginally improved from that outlined by the bureau in June.

Rural exports were forecast to increase by \$1700 million to a record \$10,270 million.

While total prices received by farmers were predicted to increase by 1 per cent, total prices paid were expected to rise by 6 per cent and overall farm costs by 7.5 per cent.

The average auction price for wool during the first quarter of the 1984 season was 491c/kg clean, approximately 5c/kg below the level of the previous quarter. The most likely average price for the season was 500c/kg clean for the market indicator.

The bureau said total wool production was expected to increase by 3.7 per cent to 755,000 tonnes in 1984-85.

But due to seasonal factors and overall supply and demand, the Australian Wool Corporation bought 211,000 bales in the first quarter of the season. Corporation stocks were now 1.5 million bales, compared with 920,000 bales at the same time last year.

World wheat prices slipped to a seasonal low of \$US147 (\$A173) a tonne in July before firming in August and September.

Australian wheat production is expected to be 17.6 million tonnes, with a gross value of almost \$3 billion or \$170 a tonne.

Australian meat exports were expected to fall 14,000 tonnes to about 425,000 tonnes because of reduced beef and veal output. About 245,000 tonnes was expected to be shipped to the United States, an increase of 2.3 per cent, while shipments to Japan were forecast at 93,000 tonnes, about 4000 tonnes above 1983-84.

The gross value of meat exports was expected to rise 3.4 per cent to \$1126 million.

CSO: 4200/203

MILITANCY EMERGES AMONG FARMERS, RANCHERS

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 15 Oct 84 p 5

[Article by Alan Thornhill]

[Text] Canberra: The militance emerging among Australia's farmers is puzzling many city folk. They wonder, for example, why wheat farmers should be organising "crisis" meetings immediately after a bumper crop.

They enjoy seeing cattlemen from Victoria's high-plains country ride through the streets of Melbourne in a spectacular rural protest.

But can city dwellers really understand the anger and despair that brought these men to town?

The rise of the militant tactician in the bush has been sudden.

City folk are not alone in their puzzlement. Many farmers have been surprised to find themselves out in the streets or at the doors of Parliament House, waving placards.

They have always regarded themselves as quiet, undemonstrative people.

The rural militants admit that they have copied their tactics from other groups, like the environmentalists.

They believe they have been forced to do so because groups such as these have been winning too many victories at their expense.

Several factors have spurred farmers to direct action over recent months.

These have included perceived threats of exclusion from traditional cattle runs (through pressure by environmentalists), rising farm costs, marketing problems in the dairy industry and increased charges for irrigation water.

The farm-cost inflation rate last financial year was nine per cent--the general national rate was 6.5 per cent.

In the aftermath of the world recession, agricultural commodity prices are weak.

The National Farmers' Federation estimates that the terms of trade for Australian farmers are now 20 per cent less favourable than they were three years ago.

CRA ALUMINIUM'S U. S. PURCHASE DELAYS LOCAL EXPANSION

Brisbane THE COURIER MAIL in English 17 Oct 84 p 25

[Article by Brian Hale]

[Text]

ALUMINIUM giant Comalco Ltd has further postponed its plans for expanding operations in Queensland after unveiling a major \$US400 million takeover deal in the United States.

But the CRA Ltd-owned group was quick to insist yesterday that the two events were not connected.

Confirmation that hopes for the long-mooted expansion of the Boyne Island smelter and a new \$2000 million refinery at Bowen are evaporating was contained in a background paper to the big takeover deal.

Comalco expressed some hopes that the acquisition would generate additional sales opportunities for existing operations in Australia and New Zealand.

But the group admitted that the latest forecasts of future world growth in aluminium consumption indicate that — taking account of capacity additions already in progress and of likely permanent closures of existing high-cost capacity — there will be no need for new smelter capacity before the end of the decade or new alumina capacity before the early 1990s.

"On this basis, regardless of the Goldendale acquisition, Comalco

would not expect to be in a position to commit for the construction of new smelting capacity in Australia for the next few years — even if this could be done on a basis which would be internationally competitive," said the group.

"Unfortunately, current capital and other costs in Australia make it very difficult for new smelting capacity to achieve this position."

"While this situation exists, Comalco believes that its planned off-shore investment is a positive step to enhance its position in the international aluminium industry and to complement and further

strengthen its competitive resource and aluminium processing operations in Australia and New Zealand."

Doubts about the prospect for further local expansion have existed for some time but the group's comments yesterday provide the first confirmation that the prospects have slipped further.

A group spokesman agreed that growth plans in the aluminium industry had been revised downwards and that although the group still had ambitions to build an integrated complex at Bowen, prospects now had diminished further.

In March the Bowen plan still was seen by Comalco as a potential development to link Weipa

bauxite and Bowen Basin coal to produce both alumina and aluminium for the world market.

But the group warned at the time that Australia's waning international competitiveness meant that prospects for the third and fourth potlines at Boyne Island were being reviewed "in the light of competitive alternatives elsewhere."

The purchase of the aluminium subsidiary of the Martin Marietta Corp. by Comalco was portrayed as an opportunity that was too good to miss.

For the price — which is far less than a greenfields development would cost — Comalco will get:

A modern and competitive aluminium rolling mill in Kentucky; an aluminium scrap recycling facility; an aluminium smelter in Washington State; a modern bulk terminal at Portland, Oregon and raw material, work-in-progress and finished goods' inventories and operating stocks.

Comalco also will get Martin Marietta's interests in a number of new and promising technological developments in smelting and other areas of the aluminium industry.

The US group's parent said it had taken a strategic decision to

withdraw from the aluminium industry to concentrate its activities in advanced technology sectors including aerospace, defence, communications and information and data management.

But figures produced yesterday show that the aluminium operations have fared poorly in recent years — running up losses of \$US46 million last year and \$US57.6 million in 1982 despite net sales of \$US671 million last year and \$US493.4 million in 1982.

CSO: 4200/203

RADIO AUSTRALIA, CHINA DAILY COOPERATE IN BROADCASTS

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 15 Oct 84 p 4

[Text]

NZPA-AAP Melbourne

Radio Australia will be broadcasting English to China next year, satisfying a hunger for a specifically produced English language programme.

A series of 104 weekly 30-minute programmes over two years will be heard in China from March next year.

John Crone, assistant head of Radio Australia's Chinese section and executive producer of "English from Australia," said as an early promotion for the series a couple of astute Chinese listeners would probably tour Australia for a week, courtesy of Qantas.

"The needs of the Chinese people have not been met by existing English language programmes," he said.

Mr Crone said "English from Australia" was different from the present foreign English broadcasts.

It was specifically made for native Chinese speakers and was relevant to their business and educational

pursuits.

"We tried to come up with useful scenarios, having application in China but still saying something about Australia," he said.

The Chinese audience will be introduced to Australia gently. They will "visit" such notable spots as Ayers Rock, the Olgas and Darwin, and will not have to contend with unravelling Australian slang or attuning their ears to a broad Australian accent, Mr Crone said.

China's only English language newspaper, the "China Daily," was co-operating with Radio Australia by printing a supplement to the Australian broadcasts, he said.

Mr Crone said for overseas Chinese listeners wishing to listen to English, Radio Australia would be providing a free explanatory guide.

The programme would have continual input and assistance from broadcasting and linguistic consultants specially brought out from Peking, he said.

CSO: 4200/203

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

FOREIGN INVESTMENT AT 3-YEAR LOW--The level of foreign investment in Australia fell to a three-year low in the final months of the last financial year following the purchase by BHP of the formerly foreign-owned Utah International company. Figures issued yesterday by the Bureau of Statistics show the inflow of foreign investment in the June quarter fell 37 per cent to \$1187 million. It was the lowest quarterly inflow since the 1981 September quarter. However, the figures were affected by BHP's \$2.5 billion purchase of Utah from the General Electric Company of the United States which was recorded as a transfer of foreign investment from overseas to local interests. The bureau does not provide details of the transactions involved in financing the deal, making it virtually impossible to determine what the investment picture would have been if the BHP-Utah transaction were discounted. Both the March and June quarters were significantly affected. In the 1983-84 year, foreign investment fell 17 per cent to \$7465 million continuing the trend which occurred in 1982-83. The main inflows of capital during the year were in the finance and property sector (\$2511 million) followed by wholesale and retail (\$1616 million) manufacturing (\$1110 million), electricity gas and water (\$893 million), "other" industries (\$505 million), mining (\$280 million), transport and storage (\$131 million) while \$408 million was unallocated. [Robert Bowden] [Text] [Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 17 Oct 84 p 1]

GOVERNMENT TO BUY BANNED URANIUM--The Federal Government is to buy eight shipments of uranium from Queensland Mines Ltd, previously destined for France but withheld because of the ALP ban on the export of uranium to France. The Minister for Resources and Energy, Senator Walsh, did not disclose the purchase price last night but said: "In order to protect the profit and cash flow position of Queensland Mines, the Government has agreed to purchase each of these shipments at the original delivery price." It is understood that each shipment of 100 short tonnes of yellowcake will cost the Government about \$7 million. Senator Walsh said Queensland Mines and the company to whom the uranium was to have been shipped, Electricite de France, had agreed to defer the first eight shipments. The shipments will be stored in stockpiles, probably in the Northern Territory where Queensland Mines operate at Nabarlek. A spokesman for Senator Walsh said if the French Government stopped testing nuclear weapons in the South Pacific, shipments could resume immediately. Under the agreement, Queensland Mines will be obliged to re-purchase the uranium from the Government if the bans are lifted. They will have to purchase it either at the present-day price or the price paid by the Government. [Text] [Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English 15 Oct 84 p 1]

KAREN STRONGHOLDS BOMBARDED WITH ARTILLERY

BK260229 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 26 Nov 84 p 2

[Text] Burmese troops bombarded two Kraen rebel strongholds opposite Tak Province of Thailand with artillery Saturday night in what appeared to be the start of a Burmese offensive against the minority groups, according to a field report reaching Bangkok yesterday.

The Burmese barrage drove about 3,000 Karens scurrying across the frontier for refuge in the Tha Song Yang District on the Thai side.

Tak-based Thai border patrol police [BPP] troops said that the Karen strongholds which came under the shelling were the Maw Po Kay camp, opposite Tha Song Yang District, and Mae La camp.

Burmese infantry troops deployed near the camps also opened fire at the Karen rebels, who replied with less intense gunfire apparently to save ammunition, according to the BPP report.

The attacks came after a battalion of Burmese troops had arrived at the border areas to reinforce the entrenched soldiers on November 21.

The Burmese also despatched more than 105 mm and 130 mm artillery pieces to the forward areas, the BPP sources said.

Most of the Burmese troops converged on their Kratae Village base, about five kms from Maw Po Kay. Kratae Village also serves as the major logistics base of the Burmese.

Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek said last Friday that the Burmese had beefed up their forces near Karen rebel positions opposite Tak and Kanchanaburi and predicted that the annual offensive against the minority rebels for this year will soon be launched.

He said that during the monsoon season, Karen rebels had undertaken more military action against the Burmese in a bid to prevent government troops from inflicting heavy damage on them during the seasonal offensive.

BURMA

BRIEFS

KAREN REBEL STRONGHOLD BOMBED--Tak--A Burmese Government plane bombed a Karen rebel stronghold at Maw Po Kay, opposite Tha Song Yang District last Friday as fighting raged between the two warring forces. An informed Border Patrol Police source told the BANGKOK POST last night that only one Karen was injured and damage was slight in the air strike conducted by a T-33 propeller plane. The source said that the air raid appeared to be a retaliation against the Karens for an ambush one day earlier in which seven Burmese soldiers, including two lieutenants, were killed and 33 wounded. The source said that Major Johnny of the Karen National Union led the surprise attack on elements of the Burmese 3d and 4th battalions as they were withdrawing from their base around Maw Po Kay in rotation with the 5th and 6th battalions. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Nov 84 p 3 BK]

CSO: 4200/221

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF TALKS ABOUT ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE, REORGANIZATION

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 5 Oct 84 pp 1, 12

[Article by Purnama K. and Ansel da Lopez]

[Text] Operation Kartika, which is presently being carried by the army leadership within the army itself, is not aimed at reducing the number of personnel. Rather, there is a reorganization going on within the armed forces. The army chief of staff, in a special interview with KOMPAS representatives in his office, stated on 4 October: "Many people have the impression that the purpose of Operation Kartika is to reduce the number of personnel due to the reorganization. That is not true."

He said that Operation Kartika is the first step taken by the army leadership to make the army more effective and efficient, particularly from the point of view of using its budget. For that reason the first target of Operation Kartika I is corruption. And it is clearly going well. With the reorganization of the use of the budget and of the administration, with action taken against people who have exceeded their authority, the use of the budget within the army has become more effective and efficient.

General Rudini, the army chief of staff, said: "with the reorganization of the budget, the target of successful use of the budget has been raised by from 40 to 60 percent." He added that with the implementation of Operation Kartika I some personnel of the army have been discharged. However, this is not because they committed serious violations of the law. Many others have been transferred from positions where they handled money. However, this kind of action should not be regarded as reducing the size of the army and so forth.

General Rudini admitted that when Operation Kartika I was first implemented, many people felt frustrated because they thought that the objective of the operation was to cut down the number of personnel. However, after he had travelled around to the various areas of the country and clarified what the objectives were, people began to understand why it was necessary to reorganize the army.

Most Are in Java

According to General Rudini, after Operation Kartika I was carried out, the process was continued with Operation Kartika II, which was further extended to deal

with the remnants of the G.30S/PKI movement [reference to abortive communist coup d'etat in 1965] in the army. The army chief of staff said that this was considered necessary because efficiency and mobility are not only affected by the factor of corruption. It is also possible that the system itself is not efficient.

Without mentioning the number of people involved, General Rudini said that the results of Operation Kartika II to clean out communist remnants from the army have begun to be seen, particularly in Java.

According to General Rudini, also included within the scope of Operation Kartika II is clearing up the situation regarding property organic to the army, including the property of army institutes and so forth. General Rudini said: "Therefore, when the younger generation in the army takes over the leadership, we can say that all of these resources are yours, to be used for the welfare of the soldiers."

Asked whether, after Operation Kartika II is completed, it will be followed by other Kartika operations to handle reorganizations in other sectors, the four star general said that this depends on the final results of Operation Kartika II, as was the case when he decided to launch Operation Kartika II after seeing the way in which Operation Kartika I was implemented. He stated: "However, if later on it turns out not to be needed, then it won't be necessary." He added that this is because in the future it is possible that the system of built-in controls, through the inspector general and his staff will successfully revitalize the inspection function, and it will function properly.

Reorganization

Regarding the implementation of the reorganization within the armed forces, and particularly in the army, General Rudini said that with this structural reorganization the army will clearly experience a change. However, this is not connected with any reduction or even any increase in the number of personnel. However, clearly the number of positions for personnel of a certain rank will be reduced in number. He declared: "However, it is not true that they will be out of a job or removed from the service."

For example, he mentioned positions for officers with the rank of general. In the reorganization which began on 1 October 1984 and which is to be completed by April 1986, General Rudini said that there are some commands which will be eliminated. For example, the Area Defense Commands [KOWILHAN] will be abolished, and the number of Military Regions [KODAM] will be reduced. This means that opportunities to become a general will be more limited in the future. And as far as colonels are concerned, the competition to become senior officers [PATI] will be sharper.

In view of this, he was asked whether it could be said that there will be no promotions for those who do not have a definite assignment. In answer to this question, General Rudini said that up to now that has indeed been the case. However, he stated, in the past there have been people who, although they were no longer on active military service, were able to be promoted. "That won't happen any more," he said. He added that this means that: "With proper regulations in effect, this won't happen. Their rank is their effective rank. Therefore, they will be promoted because of the posts that they occupy. And indeed it has to be like that."

He said that the army rank pyramid must not have a bulge at the top. The number of senior officers is too large, compared with those of lower rank. "The matter of officers no longer serving in the army who nevertheless receive promotions was previously a matter at the discretion of the minister of defense and security and the commander of the armed forces. However, as the officer responsible for the organization of the army, I say that the requirements of the army are these. There will be so many brigadier generals. There can't be any more. If people want to be promoted while they are outside the army, well, let them try. Maybe there will be a special regulation for people with outside assignments," General Rudini said with a laugh.

In a Direct Sense It Is Really Not

Asked whether he considered the reorganization as an ongoing process of change in the defense system from one based on personal considerations and which did not require higher education to a system based on technology and complex installations which required a broad range of education, General Rudini stated that in a direct sense it is really not. Indeed, the modernization of equipment will be increased. As a result, there will be a need for a higher level of training for the individual soldier. However, this is not the primary purpose of the reorganization, although he admitted that the Indonesian Armed Forces are moving in that direction.

In fact the essence of the reorganization is moving toward a form of organization, affecting the army in particular, which is more efficient and effective. For example, the present command and control structure is not too complex and does not use up too much time, but it will be made more practical. According to General Rudini, that is what is meant by having Indonesian Armed Forces which are small but effective.

The Indonesian Armed Forces, as the nucleus of the overall people's defense system, according to General Rudini, is not very large, in fact. However, it will be small but effective, constituting a very mobile, central defense force. Within the army there is KOSTRAD [Army Strategic Reserve Command] which is so organized that, with the support of strong air transport facilities, it can move quickly and properly if necessary, with weapons which are not too heavy but whose destructive power is relatively great. Beside that there are units in existence within the military regions [KODAM] and the military districts [KOREM] which must move first.

General Rudini said: "Theoretically, we must have a large navy and also a large air force. But is our country capable of supporting them?" He said that a reorientation toward this view caused the reorganization.

Military Districts Will Have a Battalion of Troops

Under the future organization, according to General Rudini, the area defense command [KOWILHAN] will be abolished, while a smaller number of military regions [KODAM]--whose future name remains to be selected--will be strategic compartments. In task and function they will resemble the present area defense commands. They must be capable of standing on their own and carrying out defensive operations in their areas. For that reason the military district commands [KOREM] will be

operational commands under the military regions. Therefore, things won't be the same as they are now. The military district command in the future will have troops organic to itself. Battalions fully organic to the military district commands will be called "Territorial Battalions." They will engage in operations and training in their own areas, so that the soldiers will really know the front yards of the people in the area. If they are faced with an attack or threat which they cannot handle, only then will they be provided with help from central army headquarters. In addition to what the military district commands have, the military regions will also have a battalion of troops, but they will be self-supporting (BS--Berdiri Sendiri).

At present, according to General Rudini, there are battalions under the command of brigades. For example, in Military Region VII/Diponegoro, there are Brigades IV and V. These brigades will also be abolished. In this way we will save on the budget because the system will be more efficient. The battalions will be assigned to the military district commands. With such a reorganization, according to General Rudini, the system will be more effective and efficient if something happens. At present, he said, the military district commands have no battalions. If something happens, they must ask the military regions for help. This is not proper and it is not effective.

According to General Rudini, each military district command in the future will have from one to three battalions, depending on the situation within the district.

According to the army chief of staff, with this reorganization it can be said that the younger generation of the Indonesian Armed Forces will be more professional in the technical military sense, it will be experienced, and will have a high degree of combat spirit.

He said that with this reorganization the total number of personnel within the army will be the same, as will the number of battalions. At present, according to the army chief of staff, there are about 214,000 personnel in the army. If there is an increase because the capabilities of the country grow, the total strength might rise to 250,000. Meanwhile, of the 100 battalions of troops within the Indonesian Armed Forces, the majority are army battalions.

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PROSPECTS OF LIEM EMPIRE'S FIRST PACIFIC GROUP ANALYZED

Broadway, Australia THE NATIONAL TIMES in English 7-13 Sep 84 p 4]

[Article by David Dodwell]

[Text] The First Pacific group, controlled by the Liem family of Indonesia, has been one of the fastest growing trading and finance operations in Asia over the past five years. It is now attracting attention for a different reason--can it prosper amidst such rapid expansion? David Dodwell reports from Hong Kong.

FIRST Pacific International — long on promise, short on performance," said a recent London stockbroker's report on the Indonesian-controlled trading and finance group which, over the past five years, has been one of the fastest-growing in Asia.

"Earlier optimism has proved to be misplaced," the report said, conceding nevertheless that the group remained "a major Asia-Pacific trading group."

It said First Pacific had a "credibility problem" that has transformed "earlier widespread confidence" into "probably exaggerated scepticism." It predicted that the group faced "a difficult slog back to credibility."

Manuel Pangilinan, the group's Filipino managing director recruited from American Express Bank in Hong Kong, sighed audibly as he read the report: "When people don't see our head bobbing up all the time, they start to speculate on what's happening — and that hasn't been helped by poor results for the first half of this year." He nevertheless tacitly concedes that the reassessment is justified.

The low profile the group has deliberately struck over the past six months is due to more than consolidation or "a pause for breath," though that in itself would probably be justified — an expatriate working for the group said last year: "It's like a volcano, things keep erupting."

Pangilinan said that the group realised at the beginning of this year that it was "badly organised" and that objectives were "badly focused." The result was a "turning inward to develop management strength."

Only when a new organisational structure was put in place in May did the board "realise that we didn't have the people." There has followed a major reshuffle, with a number of executives leaving "to pursue personal business interests" and a similar number being recruited.

First Pacific International is one of three publicly quoted companies in Hong Kong controlled by the Liem investors, an investment group headed by Liem Sioe Liong, a prominent Indonesian businessman with close links to President Soeharto, which includes members of his family and close business associates.

Liem Sioe Liong, whose Indonesian "alias" is Soedono Salim, controls one of Indonesia's largest industrial and commercial conglomerates, with interests extending from cement production, flour milling and vehicle assembly and distribution, to property development, trading and banking.

The Liem investors made their entry in Hong Kong largely unnoticed in 1972 when they set up First Pacific Finance, first as a private company, and then as a public company listed on the Kowloon Stock Exchange.

A decade later, their purchase of the shell company, Shanghai Land, also passed with

virtually no comment. Shanghai Land was promptly renamed First Pacific Holdings, and since then a rapid succession of share issues and international acquisitions ranging from a San Francisco bank to a Dutch trading company have expanded the group to the point that it is now close to the first division of international trading and finance groups.

One of the prime objectives for a group that was so obviously in its infancy was to acquire a history and traditions. As Anthony Salim, son of Soedono Salim and heir-apparent in the group, said a year ago: "We are collecting old coins."

Shanghai Land had been formed in 1888 and became a shell company in 1956 when its assets were appropriated by the authorities in Peking during the upheavals of the "great leap forward". It allowed Salim to talk of "our company's Shanghai origins."

The two subsequent major acquisitions have added to the collection of "old coins". Hagemeyer, the Dutch trading company, was founded in Surabaya in Java in 1900, and Hibernia Bank, a San Francisco bank with its roots in California's Irish community, was set up in 1859.

At the same time that Hibernia was acquired for \$US55.3 million, the Liem investors set up their third public company in Hong Kong — First Pacific International.

All three remain tightly controlled by the group. They own approximately 75.3 per cent of the issued share capital of First Pacific Holdings, 68 per cent of First Pacific International, and 80.2 per cent of First Pacific Finance.

Although the Liem investors maintain tight equity control, Manuel Pangilinan claims they have accepted that a clear separation of power is necessary to allow the group's professional management room for independent action. He argues that this has been an important factor in winning international acceptance in the early stages of the group's growth.

It has also — in the case of Hagemeyer — given the group its share of headaches. Even though First Pacific has built up a 67 per cent holding in Hagemeyer, Holland's idiosyncratic two-tier board structure has made it difficult for First Pacific to introduce much-needed management changes.

This might not have become a significant problem for First Pacific had it not been for a setback requiring provisions to be made in the company's accounts against Saks International, an 83 per-cent-owned subsidiary of Hagemeyer and one of the largest importers of coffee into the United States, after several coffee shipments were detained by the US

Customs Service pending investigation into their origin.

The shipments have now been released, with Saks denying any violation of the International Coffee Agreement. But a settlement leaves First Pacific with an extraordinary loss of \$US383,625.

More worrying for the group, the Hagemeyer board itself felt no need to refer to this embarrassing incident in its accounts. The setback in its commodities division came, it reported, because "the commodity trade is by nature one which is noted for its volatility of results."

First Pacific has had considerable difficulties in ensuring changes in Hagemeyer because of the two-tier management system. But it is understood that these are close to being overcome. Hagemeyer's finance director is to be replaced, and Price Waterhouse, the parent group's auditor, will replace Hagemeyer's current auditor at the end of this year.

Changes in the financial management at Hagemeyer will feed directly through to First Pacific International's profit line — not only because Hagemeyer is at present its primary generator of profits, but because it is likely to lead to a lower tax bill.

Manuel Pangilinan pointed out with some irritation that despite losses in the first half of this year (Hagemeyer has traditionally earned the majority of its profits in the second half), it still paid a considerable sum in taxes. This had a direct impact on the group's half-year figures to the end of June this year, where a pre-tax profit of \$US1.6 million was obliterated by a tax bill of \$US1.8 million, leaving shareholders with an attributable loss of just over \$US200,000.

Similar, though less controversial, changes are occurring at Hibernia, which made a loss in 1982 of \$US6.7m and was described on acquisition as "a small, under-utilised, under-managed bank with its roots in San Francisco's Irish community."

The bank was suffering badly as its portfolio of fixed interest mortgages and property investments were hurt by rising interest rates in the US. The capital injection that came with the First Pacific takeover went a long way to eliminating the bank's problems, but significant changes are afoot under its recently appointed chairman, Carl Gustavson.

These problems were an important reason for First Pacific "turning inward". They have led to a major rethink of the group's corporate structure. In future, the group will stick to its "core businesses" of trade and finance, Manuel Pangilinan says.

It will be divided into five "strategic business units" (or SBU's): commercial banking, which will include Hibernia and First Pacific Finance; merchant banking, a new sector, to be headed by David Warner, who is about to join the company from the First National Bank of Chicago; securities and investment advice, currently headed by Robert Meyer, a group executive director who is a lawyer by profession. This will in due course be amalgamated with merchant banking, marketing and distribution, to be built around Hagemeyer, and commodities trading to be built around Saks, but to expand from coffee to other commodities like cocoa, palm oil, and timber.

"This new structure, and the controls that go with it, have taken some time to conceptualise," says Manuel Pangilinan. "It has absorbed us for the greater part of the past six months."

It was out of this reorganisation that the proposal to privatise First Pacific Finance first grew. If all goes to plan, the scheme will become effective this month.

The aim is to reduce confusion among shareholders and investors, who often mix First Pacific Holdings with First Pacific Finance and First Pacific International. More important, it is intended to rationalise the group's financial services activities and to prevent any possibility of conflicts of interest arising between First Pacific Finance and Hibernia.

"The existence of two listed companies engaged in banking and financial services within the First Pacific group arises from historic rather than strategic reasons," the group explained to minority shareholders. In future, closer co-operation can be expected between Hibernia and First Pacific Finance.

With the reorganisation now almost complete, First Pacific's period of consolidation is about at an end. Manuel Pangilinan insists that it will remain committed to a "low profile," but acquisitions are once again soon to become part of the company's vocabulary.

The group is actively seeking a brokerage in London, and sees the widespread matchmaking that is going on at present ahead of major changes in London's "square mile" as providing an ideal opportunity to find its "global Treasury centre". The group admits that it does not have the resources to match deals like that whereby Citibank has acquired a stake in Vickers Da Costa, the Hong Kong bank in James Capel, or the ANZ in Grindlays, but it

has up to \$US40m to spend, and seems confident that a deal will be struck during 1985.

It has also set aside \$US30m for acquisitions that will build on Hagemeyer's trading operations worldwide.

One long-mooted purchase still seems a long way off, however. In January, Manuel Pangilinan predicted that 1984 would be the year First Pacific demonstrated its confidence in Hong Kong by acquiring a bank in the territory. Talks continue, he says, but he complains that price expectations are out of synchronisation with economic realities: "The premiums people are asking are just too high at the moment."

And what in future of the role of the Liem investors? The executives at First Pacific insist it will remain a passive one. For the indefinite future, however, the group's fortunes will hinge critically on those of the Liem companies in Indonesia.

It is noteworthy that First Pacific finance is forecasting after-tax profits down from \$US2.4m in 1983 to \$US1.65m this year. The reason, simply, is that "financial advisory services rendered to companies controlled by the Liem investors are expected to be lower in the current year."

If the Liem investors sneeze, then First Pacific will catch a cold, and that is likely to remain the case for a very long time to come.

EFFECTIVENESS OF TRADE OFFICIALS ABROAD TERMED BELOW EXPECTATIONS

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 4 Oct 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Jakarta, KOMPAS--The effectiveness of Indonesian trade officials overseas in helping businessmen promote Indonesian exports is still far below expectations. This was the conclusion derived from KOMPAS interviews with a number of exporters and officials of trade associations in Jakarta on 3 October.

As spearpoints of international trade there are presently about 30 trade officials assigned to various countries. They include commercial attaches, officials of Indonesian Trade Promotion Center (ITPC), ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] Trade Promotion Center (ATPC), and representatives of a number of other trade representation offices. Almost all of these officials are presently in Jakarta for commercial consultations with 460 exporters from various trading sectors.

One fed-up exporter said: "Once I wanted to try to sell a type of goods in Europe. Then I tried to meet with the commercial attache in that country. The result? It was hard to get to see him. Then what he gave me was just import statistics. I asked who were the importers. He said he did not exactly know. This is how it was."

The problem posed by the limited data held by officials of Indonesian trade centers abroad was most frequently complained of. This involved data on both market potential in the location where the official was stationed as well as on trade regulations, the knowledge of the business world there, consumer preferences, and a number of other questions. A director of a trade association said: "Up to now we have obtained a great deal of data from the attaches. However, what they have given us is far below expectations, both in terms of how frequently the data has been provided, as well as in the quality of the information."

Professionalism

Another exporter said that as the spearpoints of international trade the officials of our trade offices must be able to take part directly in market operations. They must be in touch with individual businessmen or with the whole business world in the place where they are assigned.

The exporter continued: "In my view this is not yet the case with our trade officials, whether they are attaches or officials of the Indonesian Trade Promotion Centres." There may be several reasons for this. For example, they may have only a limited knowledge of the local language, they may not have detailed knowledge of the export business, or the officials may be too much involved in routine activities like taking visitors around and many other, related matters. He added: "However, on the whole there is not yet a sense of professionalism as the spear-points of trade."

In a separate conversation an official of a trade association confirmed what the exporter had said. "For example, if the official's knowledge of the language is suitable, he can go directly into the business world." However, he added, all of that, of course, is related to the selection of the official involved. "I don't know precisely what the criteria are for a person to be appointed a commercial attache."

In the appointment of trade attaches the attitudes of "spreading the jobs around" or "auctioning off the jobs" must really be avoided. He added: "Previously, the 'auction' system was very popular. However, I hope that now, with Minister of Trade Rachmat Saleh, this practice will not be followed any more." He suggested that the selection of attaches should really be improved. Indeed, if necessary, a person who is to be appointed should be introduced to representatives of associations of business activities which, based on the latest market developments, have the greatest potential in the place where the attache is to be assigned.

He continued: "If, for example, in country X business in the A, B, C, and D areas has the greatest potential, a person being considered for appointment as an attache should be introduced to representatives of the trade associations involved in those business lines, so that they can discuss the situation. In those meetings it can be determined whether he is capable of handling those lines of business or not."

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PLANNED EXPANSION OF TRADE WITH EAST BLOC ANALYZED

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 30 Oct 84 p 21

[Article by Warief Djajanto]

[Text] : INDONESIA is adopting a "Look East" policy like neighbouring Malaysia. But unlike Malaysia which is looking East to draw on the technological experience of Japan and South Korea, Indonesia is eyeing Eastern Europe for a different purpose: expanded trade.

Indonesia's export earnings have dramatically risen in recent years, due mainly to oil and gas. But earnings from the East European market have been marginal since the abortive Communist coup in Indonesia in 1965.

Trade statistics bear out this point. In 1978, Indonesia's non-oil and gas exports amounted to US\$1.8 billion (M\$4.32 billion), 5 per cent or US\$94.4 million (M\$226.56 million) of which went to East Europe. That same year, Indonesian imports totalled US\$6.7 billion (M\$16.08 billion); about 2.5 per cent or US\$169.8 million (M\$405.6 million) came from East Europe.

In subsequent years, the trade figures between Indonesia and East Europe took a plunge. In 1982 Jakarta's exports to the region amounted to only US\$76.3 million (M\$183.12

million) or 1.9 per cent of total exports. Imports from the region came to US\$113 million (M\$260 million) or a tiny 0.85 per cent of total imports.

Indonesia's exports to East Europe in 1978-82 consisted of rubber (76.5 per cent), coffee (7.25 per cent), tin (5.28 per cent), spices (2.51 per cent), vegetable oil (2.26 per cent) and animal feed (1.54 per cent). Imports, meanwhile, consisted of machinery, electrical appliances, aluminium, chemical products, fertiliser and paper.

These figures were a far cry from those before the abortive communist coup in 1965. At that time, trade with Socialist countries was sizeable. A lot of capital goods — railroad cars, buses and heavy construction materials — from the USSR, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland and Yugoslavia entered the country.

But after 1965, the volume of trade dipped simultaneously with the cooling off of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and East European countries.

Since this year, however, Indonesia has taken steps to improve diplomatic and economic relations with East Europe, particularly the Soviet Union. For instance,

Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja visited Moscow early April for talks with his Soviet counterpart, Mr Andrei Gromyko. It was the first visit to the Kremlin by an Indonesian foreign minister in many years.

Last June, a delegation of businessmen, led by the chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin Indonesia), made its first-ever visit to Russia and East Germany. The visit was exploratory in nature: to learn about the trade system in the two countries visited.

As October came, the government took two clear moves to expand trade with East Europe. The first was a Cabinet-level decision, removing a 1978 regulation requiring that trade with Socialist countries be coordinated by state corporations. Now exporters can deal directly with East European buyers.

The second was the sending of a high-powered government mission to East Europe, headed by Mr Ali Wardhana, Coordinating Minister for Economic,

Financial and Industrial Affairs. Countries visited during the two-week tour were the Soviet Union, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany.

But chances are a rash of buyers of Indonesian goods in East Europe may be slow in coming despite the best efforts of Indonesian officials and businessmen. One major obstacle is the rigid, if not monolithic, nature of a centralised economy.

The centrally-planned economies of East Europe determine very much ahead of time their production targets and purchasing needs. Thus, Indonesian exporters have to face the problem of how to match their commodity promotion drive and eventual delivery to the long-term needs of East European nations.

Another possible obstacle is that Indonesian exporters may not get paid in convertible currency, particularly US dollars. As a rule, an East European country pays only for imports deemed essential and urgent, like wheat from the US. — Depthnews Asia

RESTRUCTURING OF FOREST CONCESSION LICENSES PLANNED

Jakarta PELITA in Indonesian 2 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] Jakarta, PELITA--The government will shortly undertake a restructuring of forest concession licenses (HPH), treating them as a group while making specific adjustments for their technical and industrial situation and the location of their markets.

This process of restructuring is considered necessary because it is felt that there are now too many holders of HPH licenses, which makes it difficult to control them. This was stated by Engr Sumarsono Martosudigdo, director general of forest enterprises in the Department of Forestry, in testimony on 1 October in Jakarta before Committee IV of Parliament (forestry, transmigration, and agricultural affairs), which was presided over by Warno Harjo, its chairman.

The total number of HPH licenses now outstanding is about 21. By the end of the Fourth 5-Year Plan it is estimated that 573 such licenses will have been issued. Companies holding HPH licenses were originally limited to those which were considered likely to be able to become self-supporting from the technical and economic point of view. However, in fact they have tended to become unprofitable.

The director general of forest enterprises said: "For that reason, it is necessary to undertake a restructuring of the industry."

On the average each holder of an HPH has a logging area of between 40,000 and 350,000 hectares. Only one or two of them have a logging area of more than 500,000 hectares.

Three Types of HPH Licenses

To facilitate the supervision of HPH licensees, in grouping them together it is planned that the licensees will be placed in three categories: self-sustaining, those which are spread out in various locations but owned by a single license holder, and those which are spread out and owned by various persons.

HPH licensees who hold logging areas of 600,000 hectares will be assigned 5-Year Work Programs (RKL) and Yearly Work Programs (RKT) and will set up their own timber processing industries. HPH licensees who hold logging areas spread out in

various areas will be assigned a single RKL and RKT program for all logging areas for which they have an HPH license.

Small HPH licensees are advised to work with other HPH license holders on a joint basis. It is hoped that they will become suppliers of logs for the wood industry.

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SOEHARTO ON PROPER USE OF MOSQUES, PANCASILA

Jakarta PELITA in Indonesian 5 Oct 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Jakarta, PELITA--On 4 October President Soeharto received a courtesy visit from the leaders of the Indonesian Council of Mosques at the Bina Graha offices. In his comments on the occasion the chief of state said that the mosques, as places of prayer, should be used as properly as possible and should interpret religion correctly.

He stated that religious figures who give sermons should not say anything that might hurt the congregation, for example by including provocative language in their remarks. The president said: "Those who give sermons should know how to act in a responsible way as Indonesian citizens and make proper use of their positions in this country."

He declared that the Republic of Indonesia, which is based on the Pancasila [Five Principles of the Nation], clearly has an obligation to protect its citizens, including religious communities, in accordance with the constitution adopted by the people themselves.

He said that the protection of the state was indeed necessary to create secure and orderly conditions. In this connection it was hoped that the religious community would display a responsible attitude and join in ensuring the continuation of our life as a state, so that law and order could be ensured.

According to the president, the efforts of the government sincerely to bequeath the Pancasila as the founding principle of our life as a society, as a nation, and as a state are intended to ensure order and calm. This is not something created by the New Order but has been a part of the Republic of Indonesia since its establishment by the founders of our country, including religious leaders.

He declared that if the development of the Islamic community and of its mosques are accomplished on the basis of the Koran and the Hadith [the sayings of Mohammed], we should also recall that we are in Indonesia, so that our devotions and faith should include expressions of our responsibilities as citizens.

The leaders of the Indonesian Council of Mosques who were received by the president included: H. A. Burhani Tjokrohandoko, the general chairman; M. Syafa'at

Habib, the secretary general; Rahardjodikromo, the chairman for daily affairs; K. H. Ayatullah Saleh, chairman; and Dr H. Abuyazid Boestomi, treasurer.

At the meeting the leaders of the Indonesian Council of Mosques officially presented to the president the conclusions reached at the First Congress of the Indonesian Council of Mosques, which was held in Jakarta from 23 to 26 July 1984.

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FORESTS IN ACEH CAUSE CONCERN

Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 4 Oct 84 pp 1, 12

[Article by Basri Daham]

[Text] Apparently it is not only H. Hadi Thayeb, the governor of Aceh Province, who is angry. The forests in Aceh are in disorder and are causing concern. Even wild animals have recently begun to give full rein to their anger.

During 1984 alone on several occasions elephants, tigers, and bears have openly begun to attack people's housing areas.

Not satisfied with damaging planted crops, flooded rice fields, dry fields, and wantonly attacking livestock, the tigers in Aceh Selatan Regency have also begun to kill people. And in Aceh Utara bears have begun to attack farmers growing beans who were guarding their fields.

The fact that the animals are coming into the open is a sign that the forests at present are no longer safe for them. The life of these animals is increasingly under pressure from the whine of power saws, logging trucks, and tractors, which make a great deal of noise.

Flying in a helicopter, H. Hadi Thayeb, the governor of Aceh, has been very much saddened to see the destruction of the forests in Aceh Timur. About 23,000 hectares of protected forest in the Alue Ie Mirah area have been destroyed. Trees both large and small have been cut down helter-skelter, until now the ground is really bare.

Reports state that the destruction of the protected forests has been carried out by people holding Forest Concession Licenses (HPH), who cut down the trees in a random fashion, without any plan.

Of course, the governor of Aceh is very angry. The Aceh Provincial Forestry Service has been asked to supervise the forests more carefully and to cancel the HPH licenses of those who abandon the forests and act in an irresponsible way, causing destruction to the forests.

In fact, reports like this have been heard for a long time. And not only in Aceh Timur. Aceh Tengah and Aceh Pidie Regencies have also had similar experiences

since HPH license holders have begun to enter those areas. However, the developments in Aceh Timur have at least indicated the true conditions concerning the destruction of the Aceh forests and who is doing this.

Between Turue Cut and Krueng Geumprot forests, in Aceh Pidie and Aceh Barat Regencies, respectively, there is a "base camp" of loggers belonging to PT L. T. and PT A. R. S. [as published; only initials of these two companies given in text], located at 475 meters above sea level. On the Aceh forest map this is called the Cot Damar Muda area.

Last week a MERDEKA correspondent succeeded in breaking through tight security and entered the sawmill complex of the owners of these HPH licenses. The sawmill is located on top of a hill, 4 kilometers from the provincial road between Tangse and Geumpang.

This sawmill is a large one. It has six sawmill units which can handle 150 tons of timber per day. Around this location the ground is covered with hundreds of logs felled in the nearby forest. Tree-cutting activity over the last few months has gone a long way, now approaching the border of Aceh Barat Regency.

This sawmill, which was only officially opened in September 1984, presently has a number of heavy units which can move quickly through the forests. According to Engineer Thamrin, chief of the Aceh Pidie Regency Forestry Service, this HPH licensee has a concession area of 53,000 hectares, not including the area he has in Aceh Barat.

In Aceh Pidie Regency up to the present there have been two HPH licensees, whose concession areas total 103,000 hectares. This forest is along the ridge of the Bukit Barisan mountain range. It is feared that this large forest will be cut down completely by the heavy equipment belonging to the HPH licensee. At most this will only take 3 years.

The forest really needs to be preserved. Substantial resources, funds, and infrastructure have been devoted to reforestation. A significant proportion of the funds spent has been allocated to repair the damage resulting from the failure of previous reforestation efforts.

Ironically, the clearing of the forest continues every day. The number of businessmen operating under HPH licenses is increasing as their profits grow.

According to information obtained by a MERDEKA representative, the permanent forest area in the Special Area of Aceh covers 3,285,260 hectares. In this area there are 22 firms financed by domestic capital (PMDN) and foreign capital (PMA) which are active in the "logging" sector and in processing commercial timber. There are six companies engaged in sawing lumber and producing plywood. This means that 50 percent of the 48 capital investments in Aceh are in the wood industry sector.

This total shows that the proper condition of the forests is increasingly under threat. This is especially the case if cutting down trees and clearing the forest continues in an irresponsible way, as has happened in Aceh Timur Regency.

On the other hand the process of reforestation is not progressing as it should. A great deal of the reforestation effort is incomplete. The contractors are not performing their duty of reforesting the area, using the excuse that they are losing money, because the cost standard is too low.

The efforts at reforestation which are carried out every time there is a celebration of ecology day are only ceremonial in nature. Reforestation is carried out in a careless way, and the result is also a failure.

Forest fires also play a role in the destruction of the forests and in the reforestation effort. This particularly applies to fires in young pine forests. Last August 1,000 hectares of pine forest in Aceh Tengah Regency were burned down. During the same month in the Seulawah mountain area of Aceh Besar Regency 2,000 hectares of pine forest were also completely burned down.

The forest fires and the failure of reforestation show how much the effort to rehabilitate the forest in the Special Area of Aceh has been delayed. And at the same time the felling of trees continues. Our beautiful forests are suffering increasing damage.

A report compiled by MERDEKA shows that the felling of trees and other activities by HPH licensees is turning the forests into open land over a wide area. Until replacement trees grow naturally, this situation will not change. Clearly, it is feared that good quality, hardwood trees will no longer be able to grow, and particularly other woods, such as Meranti [a mahogany-like wood] and Dammar [a type of pine producing resin used in varnish].

Not only that, but the habitat of various kinds of wild animals is beginning to suffer. Many ecological chains have been broken. And as a consequence certain imbalances have occurred. The animals are even beginning to move around uncertainly. Soon they will disappear from history.

Timber merchants in Aceh think that the forest which has been cut down indeed provides cause for concern. However, after a while, they say, the forest will restore itself naturally.

That view may be correct, but it is a very weak argument. The forest may indeed reestablish itself, but from the point of view of the quality of wood involved, it is proper to ask questions. Will the quality of the replacement wood be the same as that of the forests that have been cut down? And what about the other life cycles in the forest?

Of course, these questions can only be answered in a hypothetical way. The problem is that practical research on forestry questions in our country is still limited.

For example, take the case of Meranti trees (its botanical name is Dipterocarpaceae). This is the dominant tree in the wet tropical forests of Aceh. Meranti naturally grows well from seeds. Therefore, to rejuvenate these forests, Meranti seeds are very important. However, the regeneration of this type of tree is still limited, because of the small number of seedlings. Therefore, what will happen if all Meranti seedlings are destroyed?

For that reason, action to preserve the forests must not merely be taken on paper or around symposium or seminar tables. Preserving the forests will only be meaningful if action is taken in the field in a responsible and sincere way.

PROBLEMS FACING FOOD PRODUCTION CITED

Jakarta PELITA in Indonesian 10 Oct 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] Jakarta, PELITA--Although the efforts to increase food production in Indonesia have shown rather encouraging results, they have encountered a number of problems which must be resolved through continuing work. The range of these problems is quite broad. They concern not only the question of the cultivation of the crops but also the post-harvest use of the fields, the reduction in the area of fertile agricultural land, and the food consumption practices of the people which, up to the present, have heavily emphasized rice consumption.

Minister of Agriculture Engr Achmad Affandi made this statement in the course of his speech before newspaper and magazine editors and reporters of Jakarta at the Department of Information on 9 October. The minister of agriculture, together with Mrs L. Sutanto, the minister of state for the role of women, and Minister of Information Harmoko, spoke on 9 October in connection with the forthcoming celebration of World Food Day on 16 October.

A Shift Toward the Use of Marginal Land

Regarding the post-harvest use of the land, the minister of agriculture said that there was a rather large loss in production. If this problem is not resolved, there will be very large losses for the community as a whole.

Regarding the reduction in the area of fertile agricultural land, Engr Achmad Affandi pointed out that fertile agricultural land, such as that in Java and Bali, is becoming scarcer, in connection with an increase in the construction of housing, roads, and infrastructure. The minister of agriculture said: "The planted area on those two islands will inevitably tend toward including marginal land which is of lesser quality and is in the hills."

This marginal land can still produce food crops such as rice, soybeans, and so forth. However, the technology and the various inputs which are needed will involve high costs. Meanwhile, outside Java and Bali the agricultural land in use is also marginal, most of which consists of land types which have unfavorable physical and chemical characteristics.

This land generally has an unstable structure, is easily affected by erosion, has a low capacity for absorbing water, is acidic, and has a very low level of trace

elements. The minister of agriculture said: "Because this soil is acidic, between 2 and 2.5 tons of lime are needed per hectare to obtain a good harvest."

Still Dependent on Rice

Engr Achmad Affandi also pointed to obstacles in making available agricultural land in tidal areas along the sea, which are affected by the intrusion of sea water seeping into rice fields, the effect of peat, and various plant poisons. He also referred to the productivity of valley lands resulting from the deposit of silt by the rivers.

Another problem mentioned by the minister concerned food consumption by the people which, up to now, has heavily favored rice. Affandi said: "If the demand for rice continues to increase at the present rate, that is, about 4.5 percent per year, over the long term our capacity for producing rice will no longer be in balance with the expansion of rice requirements. This is particularly the case since fertile land and relatively good sources of water are increasingly limited."

Therefore, holding down an increase in consumption of rice needs to be undertaken by aiming at community consumption standards. In this connection, the minister of agriculture said, the government has taken a step in that direction with the issuance of Presidential Instruction No 20 of 1979 on improving the people's nutritional practices.

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CSO: 4213/55

SIHANOUK STANCE ON COALITION WITH PRK, TRAVEL PLANS

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Oct 84 p 4

[Article by Jacques Bekaert]

[Text] FOR the first time since the occupation of Kampuchea by Vietnamese forces a serious attempt has been made by Hanoi to get in touch with Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

"I had informed the French that I was not opposed to a meeting with people from Vietnam or the People's Republic of Kampuchea," the Prince told us during an interview in New York where he was attending the 39th session of the United Nations' General Assembly.

When the Prince was in Paris last August as guest of the French Republic he had also received President Mitterrand's special adviser for foreign affairs, Mr Regis Debray.

"He told me Hanoi was willing to send somebody to meet me. And the government in Phnom Penh was ready to do the same, separately. Even if I had little illusion about the possible outcome of such talks I thought it could be useful to face the other side's point of view."

But when the three leaders of the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea met in Peking during the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Chinese Revolution, Prince Sihanouk discovered that even if Mr Son Sann agreed with him that talks could be a good thing, Mr Khieu Samphan, for the party of Democratic Kampuchea, was of a very different opinion. "The Vietnamese only want to break the coalition," he told Norodom Sihanouk.

This was also pretty much the reaction of the Chinese leaders. Prince Sihanouk confirmed that before his arrival in France last summer Mr Nguyen Co Thach, the Vietnamese foreign minister, had sent a

telegram to his French counterpart, Mr Claude Cheysson, explaining it was not by chance the Sihanoukist base of Tatum had not been attacked during the past dry season and that Vietnam did not consider the Prince "as bad as the other members of the coalition."

"I would have liked to meet the envoy from Hanoi and Phnom Penh. Maybe something could have resulted from a face-to-face meeting." But Sihanouk was also anxious not to break the coalition. "At this point we need China. It is our main supplier of weapons. If I had conducted secret talks, the day it had been discovered the Sihanoukists could have lost everything."

In the past, only very indirect approaches were made by Vietnam toward Sihanouk. Once in a while, visitors to Hanoi are told that the Prince still has a role, and they are asked about his position regarding the Kampuchean issue. But so far, never had it been so direct.

"I apologise to France, Vietnam and Phnom Penh for not being able to have the promised talks for the mo-

ment. But I try very hard to respect the letter of the coalition agreement."

* * *

DURING his recent visit to Peking, Prince Sihanouk, along with the two other leaders of the coalition government and his personal representative in Asia and Kampuchea Prince Norodom Ranariddh, held talks with some of the most important Chinese personalities, including Mr Deng Xiaoping, President Li Xiannian,

Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang and Communist Party Secretary General Hu Yaobang.

"I found the Chinese very firm, even hardline, toward Vietnam. In a sense, China is very logical with her own position. But at the same time Mr Deng Xiaoping told us: 'If Vietnam does accept the United Nations' resolutions on Kampuchea, China will be the first country to extend important assistance to Vietnam.'"

Prince Sihanouk was also told by the Chinese leaders that the PRC was ready to apply extra pressure on Hanoi by putting more troops along the northern border of Vietnam. "We reserve to ourselves the right to teach a second lesson to Vietnam," Mr Deng Xiaoping said.

WEAPONS

China recently sent an important shipment of new weapons to be equally divided between the three factions of the Kampuchean resistance including semi-heavy equipment and anti-aircraft guns.

"Mr Deng Xiaoping insisted that the resistance should be as united as possible. No faction should try to get rid of the two others. Not during the struggle, not after the liberation of Kampuchea. The People's Republic of China would not support a coalition severed of one of its members," said Prince Sihanouk.

The question of Pol Pot was raised. In this case too the Chinese were hardliners. Said Mr Deng Xiaoping: "People want Mr Pol Pot to stop his activities. We do not deny that Mr Pol Pot has made mistakes but we cannot accept that he has to go. His army is fighting hard."

"I have the impression," Prince Sihanouk told us, "that the Chinese still do not take very seriously the military capacities of the nationalists. Mr Son Sann was quite bitter about this and I agree with him the nationalists troops have made tremendous progress in the past few years."

REGARDING the crucial and much disputed subject of Vietnamese "colonisation" of Kampuchean — the so-called "Vietnamisation of Kampuchea" — Prince Sihanouk takes a rather different view than most of his allies.

"People tell us that in a few years Kampuchea will cease to exist as such. Of course, the present process is dangerous, but it seems to me that it is even more dangerous for the Vietnamese. The more conspicuous they are in Kampuchea the more they constitute an easy target for the resistance. The nationalists are not going to shoot innocent Vietnamese civilians but the Khmer Rouge will have no such reservation. Those poor people will be the victims."

ASKED the reason why Prince Sihanouk recently considered resigning from the coalition (a telegram to that effect was sent by the Prince on September 6 to Mr Son Sann and Khieu Samphan), he explained: "I am the object of constant and violent attacks from anti-Sihanoukist groups in Canada and France, groups close to the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF).

"It is very bad, not for me as a person, but for the coalition, for our struggle. What image do we give the world? What is accomplished by such behaviour? We have lost our country. We have to unite, we loose Kampuchea the day we are divided. We are a small country, we have to stand together as Cambodians. Since we signed the coalition agreement I have given very strict orders to my followers not to attack the other factions. Those groups attack Pol Pot and Sihanouk, not Vietnam..."

Prince Sihanouk seems to be convinced the resistance will make substantial progress in the next few years. "Today the nationalists represent more than 25,000 armed men. It is a considerable progress if you remember where we came from. With the Khmer Rouge, we have now a total of more than 60,000 soldiers. In a year or two we could be 100,000.

Given the characteristic of the guerilla war this would give us almost the advantage. It seems to me Vietnam should be somewhat more flexible toward China. They would benefit from it, and so would of course Kampuchea. I still would like to be able to talk to the other side, but they must know I want nothing for myself. I want independence and self-determination for my country."

PRINCE Sihanouk will be in the United States until November 20, working at the United Nations and

visiting several Kampuchean communities in California, Minnesota and New York. In each state there will be a Funcinpec assembly and Sihanouk will report on the current political situation.

TRAVEL

He will then travel back to France and have another meeting with President Mitterrand. He will also visit Tunisia and Mali. Early next year he is planning to go to China and Pyongyang (where he will receive \$50,000 from President Kim Il-Sung for the Sihanoukist resistance and civilian population). The Prince will then come to Thailand "to see my good friend ACM Siddhi Savetsila" before visiting various zones in Kampuchea. He will receive the credentials of the ambassadors of Soudan and Senegal and preside over a fifth cabinet council before going to Australia (Canberra for political talks, Melbourne and Sydney to visit the Kampuchean communities) and New Zealand. Later, he will go to China and again Pyongyang for Mr Kim Il-Sung's birthday (April 15). He will then go back to France and probably travel to Iceland and several Latin American countries.

PRINCE Sihanouk has never felt very comfortable with war. He is a Buddhist and violence does not attract him. His final dream is still the one of a free, neutral and independent Kampuchea.

"I still firmly believe in a national reconciliation of all Khmers, all the Kampucheans, including the people following Mr Heng Samrin. In the long run it is the best chance for our country."

— Jacques Bekaert

LAOS

SRV TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES: RECEPTION HELD

BK231339 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 23 Nov 84

[Text] Vientiane, 23 November (OANA-KPL)--A Vietnamese trade delegation led by Luong Van Nghia, member of Communist Party CC of Vietnam, head of Foreign Trade Department of Hanoi, arrived here yesterday for a friendship visit.

The delegation on the same day paid a courtesy visit to Khambou Sounisai, member of the LPRP CC, mayor of Vientiane.

The two countries' officials during the warm and friendly meeting, exchanged views on various issues on the fields of trade and overall efforts to consolidate and expand the principles of friendship, special militant solidarity and all-round cooperation between the two fraternal countries as well as between the two sister capitals.

K.Sounisai highly evaluated the friendship visit of the delegation which has further strengthened trade cooperation between the two capitals.

Kongpheng Souttavong, member of the Party Committee and head of Trade Department of Vientiane, yesterday evening held a reception in honour of the visiting delegation.

Taking part in the reception were K. Sounisai, member of the LPRP CC, mayor of Vientiane, Dr Siho Bannavong, vice-mayor of Vientiane.

Nguyen Dinh Hiep, member of the Hanoi Party Committee, and vice-chairman of Hanoi People's Committee, head of Hanoi experts team to Vientiane and Nguyen Van Hung, economic counselor of Vietnamese Embassy to Laos, were also present at the reception.

CSO: 4200/198

BRIEFS

DELEGATION TO USSR--Vientiane, 17 November (KPL)--A delegation of the Lao Ministry of Culture led by Sitha Phengphengmouang, director of the Publishing Department, left here for the USSR on 14 November. The delegation is to attend a conference of leading officials of the publishing work of socialist countries to be opened in Moscow on 19 November, and a conference on cooperation in publishing work between Laos, the USSR, Vietnam, and Kampuchea, to be held in the Soviet capital later. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 17 Nov 84 BK]

GDR TRADE UNION DELEGATION--Vientiane, 15 November (KPL)--A delegation of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions (GDR) led by Prof Hort Schneider, member of its Central Council, and director of the theoretical school of Bernow, arrived here on 12 November at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Lao Federation of Trade Unions. The delegation will give lectures in Vientiane during its week-long friendship visit. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0924 GMT 15 Nov 84 BK]

POLISH LECTURES DELEGATION--Vientiane, 18 November (OANA-KPL)--A lecturers' delegation of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party led by A. Palimaka, cadre of the secretarial office of the first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, arrived here on 15 November on a 5-day lecture tour. The same day the delegation was received by Sopha Khotphouthon, deputy head of the Propaganda and Training Board of the LPRP CC. They had a talk on issues concerning the ideological work. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT 18 Nov 84 BK]

DELEGATIONS TO CUBA--Vientiane, 15 November (KPL)--A delegation of the Lao Ministry of Justice led by its minister, Kou Souvannamethi, left here yesterday for the Republic of Cuba to attend a conference of justice ministers of fraternal socialist countries to be held in Havana from 20 to 23 November. The conferees will exchange views on juridical work in their countries. The same day, a delegation of the Lao Committee for World Peace, Solidarity and Friendship With Other Nations led by Phao Phimpachan, vice-chairman of the Lao AAPSO Committee, left here for Cuba to attend an AAPSO conference in Havana from 21 to 26 November. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0920 GMT 15 Nov 84 BK]

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION--Vientiane, 19 November (KPL)--The road-bridge and port construction enterprise of southern Champassak Province recently completed the construction of a temporary bridge over Bachiang River on Highway No 13. This 3.5 x 33.65 metre bridge can support a load of up to 18 tons. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0922 GMT 19 Nov 84 BK]

SNLF ELECTION GREETINGS--Vientiane, 19 November (KPL)--Souphanouvong, president of the LPDR, the People's Supreme Assembly and of the Lao Front for National Construction, sent greetings to Daniel Ortega Saavedra, the commander of the revolution, member of the national leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, coordinator of the Guiding Council of the government. The Lao president expressed his pleasure upon hearing the great victory of the recent elections in favour of the SNLF. The result of the historical free and democratic general elections showed the confidence of the fraternal Nicaraguan people having toward the Sandinista Front and the Guiding Council of the government. This victory also represented a heavy blow to the U.S. imperialists who aim at undermining the Nicaraguan revolution. President Souphanouvong further expressed conviction that under the clear-sighted leadership of the SNLF, the heroic Nicaraguan people will pursue their struggle for safeguarding the revolution fruits. He also expressed for the furthering of the friendly relations and militant solidarity between Laos and Nicaragua. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT 19 Nov 84 BK]

SAMAN VI-GNAKET ADDRESSES WOMEN--Vientiane, 19 November (KPL)--Saman Vi-Gnaket, secretary of the LPRP CC, head of the Organization Committee of the LPRP CC, recently met with leading cadres of the Lao Women's Union who are attending a women conference here. This is the second conference of its kind being held after the first women congress held early this year. In his speech, Saman Vi-Gnaket, beside highly evaluating the delegates' roles at this conference, also pointed out their continual role in the construction of the socialism in Laos. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0917 GMT 19 Nov 84 BK]

PUBLICATION COOPERATION WITH GDR--Vientiane, 21 November (OANA-KPL)--Onsi Boutsivongsak, director of the Vientiane State Publishing House, and Zimmen Mann, director of the Volkswacht de Gera Publishing House (GDR), signed here yesterday an agreement on cooperation in publication between the two publishing houses. Under this agreement, the two sides will exchange experiences in publication network, and the GDR side will provide the Lao side with newspapers and magazines in German, French and English languages. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT 21 Nov 84 BK]

DELEGATION BACK FROM CSSR--Vientiane, 21 November (KPL)--A Lao sports delegation led by Khamphong Phanvongsa, deputy-minister of education, was back home on 17 November after having attended the 33rd conference of the sports officials of the socialist countries recently held in Czechoslovakia. The participants unanimously opposed the counter-measure of the Olympic Charter ranging from the commercialisation of the games and other malpractices. The conference also agreed upon the exercising of the democratic principles in raising the role of the Council of the National Olympic Committees. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT 21 Nov 84 BK]

HANOI FLOOD VICTIMS CONDOLED--Vientiane, 22 November (KPL)--Mayor of Vientiane Khambou Sounisai sent a message of sympathies to Tran Vy, mayor of Hanoi, on 19 November, expressing his sympathy with the flood victims in Hanoi, Nghia Binh and other provinces in Vietnam. The message also expressed the hope that the Vientamese flood victims would quickly overcome the aftermath of this natural calamity and bring their life back to normal. [Text] [Vientiane KPL en English 0917 GMT 22 Nov 84 BK]

PHNOM PENH ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS--Vientiane, 22 November (KPL)--Khambou Sounisai, mayor of Vientiane, yesterday sent a message of greetings to Keo Chanda, secretary of the Party Committee and mayor of Phnom Penh, on the occasion of the 550th founding anniversary of the Kampuchean capital city. In his message, the mayor of Vientiane conveyed his best wishes for new and greater achievements to the population of Phnom Penh in the task of building and developing their capital as well as in their overall national construction obligations. He also expressed his conviction that the special alliance between Laos and Kampuchea, especially between the peoples of the two countries' capitals, will be further strengthened. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0913 GMT 22 Nov 84 BK]

PARTY SCHOOL DELEGATION--Vientiane, 22 November (KPL)--A delegation of the Lao High Party School led by Chanmi Douangboutdi, member of the LPRP CC, director of the school, left here on 21 November for Sofia for a conference of directors of party schools of the socialist countries. Seeing the delegation off at Wattai airport were Sileua Bounkham, vice-director of the High Party School; Todor Isvetanov [Netsov], Bulgarian ambassador to Laos; and other senior officials. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0915 GMT 22 Nov 84 BK]

SAIL VONGKHAMSAO RECEIVED GDR ENVOY--Vientiane, 21 November (OANA-KPL)--Sali Vongkhamsao, secretary of the LPRP CC, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, chairman of the State Planning Committee, received here on 19 November the GDR ambassador to Laos, Dieter Doering, at the end of his diplomatic mission here. During the meeting, S. Vongkhamsao warmly hailed the ambassador's contribution to promoting the friendship between the parties, governments and peoples of Laos and the GDR. He wished him success in his new situation. Ambassador Dieter Doering thanked the party and government of the Lao PDR for having facilitated the fulfillment of his mission here during the past 3 years. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 21 Nov 84 BK]

PHOUMI VONGVICHIT ATTENDS EXHIBITION--Vientiane, 21 November (KPL)--An exhibition of Soviet books, magazines, newspapers, stamps and records was opened here yesterday by the Lao Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the Soviet Embassy to mark the 67th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and to salute the 9th anniversary of the Lao National Day (2 December). Among those present at the opening ceremony were Phoumi Vongvichit, Political Bureau member of the party CC, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, Chanmi Douangboutdi, member of the party CC, director of the Party and Government School, and Thongsing Thammavong, alternate member of the party CC, minister of culture. Vladimir Sobchenko, Soviet ambassador, and other members of the diplomatic corps to Laos, were also on hand. Somsa Desasomphou, deputy-minister of culture, and V. Sobchenko, addressed the gathering. They spoke of the

significance of the two anniversaries. "Our national socialist building during the past 9 years has enjoyed genuine support from the Soviet Union," stressed S. Desasomphou. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 21 Nov 84 BK]

PHOUMI VONGVICHIT AT MONGOLIAN EXHIBITION--Vientiane, 22 November (KPL)--The Lao-Mongolian Friendship Association and the Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the Mongolian Embassy in Laos, opened here yesterday a photo exhibition in honour of the 3rd congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and the 60th Nation Day of Mongolia. Among those present at the opening ceremony were Phoumi Vongvichit, Political Bureau member of the party CC, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, and other Lao senior officials. Members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations in Laos were also on hand. [Excerpts] [Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 2 Nov 84 BK]

SOVIET FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION ARRIVES--Vientiane, 22 November (KPL)--A delegation of the Soviet-Lao Friendship Association led by V.J. Filipov, director of the National University in Kuban Province, arrived here on 20 November on an official freindship visit. During its 1-week stay here, the delegation will exchange views with the Lao side on their work and will give lectures in Vientiane on the topic "The Economic Planning of Developing Countries." [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0920 GMT 22 Nov 84 BK]

NOUHAK PHOUMSAVAN RECEIVES GDR ENVOY--Vientiane, 22 November (KPL)--Nouhak Phoumsavan, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC, first vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, received here yesterday the GDR ambassador to Laos, Dieter Doering, at the end of his diplomatic mission here. During the meeting, N. Phoumsavan warmly hailed the ambassador's contribution to promoting the friendship between Laos and the GDR. Ambassador Dieter Doering thanked the Lao Party and Government for having facilitated the fulfillment of his mission here during the past 3 years. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0859 GMT 22 Nov 84 BK]

PHOUMI VONGVICHIT ATTENDS CULTURAL CONFERENCE--Vientiane, 22 November (KPL)--A national conference on cultural work for 1984 was held here yesterday under the chairmanship of Minister of Culture Thongsing Thammovong, alternate-member of the party CC. Present at the opening ceremony were Phoumi Vongvichit, Political Bureau member of the party CC, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers; and deputy-minister of culture Somsri Desasomphou. In his inaugural speech, the chairman of the conference stressed the important task of ameliorating cultural activities. "To build a socialist society, especially a good cultural life, the adverse cultural vestige of the former regime should be eradicated," he said. For his part, Phoumi Vongvichit, responsible for guiding educational, cultural and social work, spoke of the richness of the Lao culture. He said that the lingering influence of the colonial and neo-colonial culture should be urgently uprooted in order to fulfill the task set by the party for building a new socialist society. Vice-chairman P. Vongvichit further urged all cultural cadres to make greater efforts to fulfill their obligations. The conference, attended by 100 cultural officials from all parts of the country, will close later this month. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0903 GMT 22 Nov 84 BK]

THONGVIN PHOMVIHAN RECEIVES GDR ENVOY--Vientiane, 23 November (KPL)--Mrs Thongvin Phomvihan, member of the LPRP CC, acting first secretary of the LPRYU [Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union] CC received here on 22 November the GDR ambassador to Laos, Dieter Doering, who approaches the end of his diplomatic mission here. During the meeting, Thongvin Phomvihan hailed the ambassador's contributions to the promotion of friendship between Laos and GDR. She also expressed her appreciation over the development of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries' youth organizations FDJ [Free German Youth] and LPRYU. Ambassador Dieter Doering thanked the Lao party, government and LPRYU CC for having provided facilities to fulfill of [as received] mission here during the past 3 years. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0916 GMT 23 Nov 84 BK]

SURVEY ALONG SRV-BUILT HIGHWAY--Vientiane, 23 November (OANA-KPL)--A joint team of Lao and Vietnamese experts has announced the results of a technical survey it carried out from 16 to 18 November along National Highway No 9 linking Laos to Vietnam. The survey team particularly concentrated its evaluation on the portion from Vietnam's boundary to Sepone District, in the southern Lao province of Savannakhet. Construction of this 44 km portion of National Highway No 9 was done since April 1978 by the Vietnamese road construction enterprise No 384. On this portion stretching on a mountainous region, the Vietnamese enterprise had to build 17 concrete bridges and of water pipeline 2,600 meters [sentence as received]. The construction of this road portion needs 5,990 tons of cement, 1,500 tons of steel, 1,920 tons of asphalt and more than 1 million cubic meters of clay, and the construction cost was provided by Vietnam as part of a non-refund aid programme to Laos. Once achieved, the National Highway No 9 will give passage to 500 to 1,000 trucks daily at an average speed of up to 80 km per hour. The technical survey also confirmed that all the bridges and the underground pipeline were well built and that the road is in a very satisfactory condition. The joint survey team was led by Vet Khaikhamphithoun from the Lao Ministry of Transport and Post, and Le Truc Vang, from the Vietnamese Ministry of Communications and Transport. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0918 GMT 23 Nov 84 BK]

OUTGOING MPR ENVOY RECEIVED--Vientiane, 23 November (KPL)--Souphanouvong, president of the republic, the People's Supreme Assembly and the Lao Front for National Construction, received here yesterday, the Mongolian ambassador to Laos, Orsoogiyn Nyamaa, who is ending his diplomatic mission here. President Souphanouvong, on the occasion, congratulated O. Nyamaa on his active contribution to furthering the Lao-Mongolian friendly relations during his mission here. For his part, the Mongolian ambassador expressed thanks to the Lao Party and Government for having created favourable conditions for him to his work here. The meeting proceeded in a warm and cordial atmosphere. Later, in the evening in the same day, Khamphai Boupha member of the party CC, first deputy-minister for foreign affairs, on behalf of the Lao Government, awarded the "Friendship Medal" to O. Nyamaa for the fulfillment of his diplomatic mission here. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0906 GMT 23 Nov 84 BK]

VOMD SCORES LEE KUAN YEW FOR ELECTION 'TRICKS'

BK290855 (Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay 1215 GMT 26 Nov 84

["News commentary"]

[Text] With the approach of every Singapore general election, Lee Kuan Yew's regime assuredly plays up several new tricks to guarantee his power. As the general election approached, the Singapore parliament approved a constitutional amendment bill concerning Singapore general elections proposed by Lee Kuan Yew. The amendment's objective is to provide three to six nonconstituency parliament seats for the opposition. It is understood that the amendment would not be enforced should the opposition win more than three parliamentary seats this time.

Lee Kuan Yew said that the nonconstituency parliament members will enjoy rights, responsibility, and duties equal to those of other elected parliament members, except that they will be disallowed to vote on the constitutional amendment, draft bills, and the financial laws.

As soon as the amendment bill was disclosed, numerous queries by several leaders of the various strata of the Singaporean community arose. It is really true that the PAP [People's Action Party] is honest enough to allow the opposition party in parliament? In truth, Singaporeans are suspicious of the PAP's new move because all along the PAP has obliterated parliamentary democracy in Singapore. For example, PAP placed many obstructions in the opposition party's way during the approach of the general elections, allowing only 8 days from the nomination day to the polling day for carrying out the election campaign. By limiting the campaign period, PAP used all its effort to try to bring down the opposition party. Another example is that it threatened printing companies for printing posters and other propaganda materials for the opposition party candidates. They resorted to many tricks in facing the opposition party, even suppressing voters who do not support the PAP. In its frenzy, it abused its power to create tension by threatening the masses. The government took an iron-fisted attitude even in the printing of ballot papers, controlling the election campaign, and detaining the opposition candidates under the Public Security Act. The ballot papers were then serialized, creating mental pressure on the voters. In addition, the PAP propaganda which simultaneously threatened and cajoled the people, said that certain welfare facilities would not be afforded to the electoral

constituencies, and so on. All this created political pressure on the voters, and they realized that if they did not vote for the PAP they would surely face calamities.

Even though the opposition party was faced with numerous obstructions and the voters were faced with continuous suppression, the voters in the Anson constituency threw out the PAP candidate and elected the Workers' Party candidate as the parliament member in October 1981. The public clearly knew that since Secretary General J.B. Jeyaratnam was elected a parliament member, PAP had targeted him and suppressed the party through legal means in its efforts to oust him from the parliament. Singaporeans witnessed this for themselves. Thus, when Lee suggested that three opposition members be placed as nonconstituency parliamentary members, people everywhere became suspicious. What tricks does the PAP have up its sleeve? The leaders of the Singapore opposition parties were not willing to accept the seats given with PAP government assurance and subject to certain regulations and said that Singaporeans should be given the opportunity to cast their votes according to their desire. The secretary general of the Singapore Democratic Party [SDP], [Tian Szeto] said "the opposition parties have dignity. We should be elected into parliament with votes given us by the people and not be accepted into it by the ruling party." He pointed out that having nonconstituency parliament members greatly weakens the democratic procedure of Singapore. The Socialist Front chairman, Lee Siew Choh, also disclosed that he does not wish to be in parliament by PAP's appointment, but rather by the people's choice. He said further that several facilities given to the opposition parties should be well-meant by the PAP, and not meant to make the opposition dance to their (PAP) tune. In addition, several irrelevant matters in the elections act such as serializing the back of the ballot paper should be done away with, and the limit of 9 days placed on the time allocated for campaigning should be scrapped. The secretary general of the Singapore United Front, [Ho Chee Lim], also disclosed that his party will not accept the proposal because as nonconstituency parliament members his party would not have the right to vote in parliament. The secretary general of the Workers' Party, J.B. Jeyaratnam, is of the opinion that the government's proposal is totally illogical. He said that the people are free to choose and there is no need for the PAP to specify who the second class parliament members should be. Jeyaratnam is also suspicious of the role to be played by the second class parliamentary members in the parliament. Further, he proposed that if the government is true to its word and does take opposition members into the parliament, they [the government] should not impose restrictions on the opposition party during the elections, should allow exiled opposition candidates to return to the country to contest in the general elections, and should guarantee that they will not be detained under the Internal Security Act.

When the draft bill was read for the second time, Lee Kuan Yew said the move to have nonconstituency parliamentary members had three objectives:

1. To upgrade the debating technique of the ministers and the younger parliamentary generation in the party so that they learn to face opposition party members;
2. To groom the younger parliamentary generation in order to know the utmost ability of the nonconstituency parliamentary members;

3. To eradicate the people's false impression that all PAP parliamentary members' mistakes have been swept under the carpet.

This has clearly shown Lee Kuan Yew's intention to have nonconstituency parliament members to continuously train his party parliamentarians and also to blacken the opposition party's image and strengthen his power. He firmly hopes that this action will calm the people's feelings of dissatisfaction over the PAP's dictatorship and also the people's desire to have opposition party members in the parliament. Lee Kuan Yew all this while has monopolized power and acted according to his desire to stupefy the people; he wishes only PAP candidates whom he considers talented to be nominated.

Now he goes further by wanting personally to select the nonconstituency parliament members for Singaporeans. Surely the nonconstituency parliament members he chooses should be suitable to his desires and also to his party. He always plays the part of a life-saver, as if without him Singapore's future would be totally bleak. He has said as much before. He has said that Singapore's progress cannot be decided by social policies, politics, and the economy, but also by the attitude of the opposition parliament members toward the basic problems of Singapore. What is meant by the basic problems of Singapore is none other than his desires and those of his party. Giving a summary of the draft amendment bill, Lee Kuan Yew said, "PAP is determined to grab the victory in this general election." He went on to say "To destroy the Workers' Party is the PAP's responsibility." According to him, the Workers' Party cannot defend Singapore. His statement indicates his very dictatorial attitude and extreme pride. He will not even face an opposition party member in parliament. One can visualize how Lee Kuan Yew wants nonconstituency parliament members to be. In his statement, he said that PAP is determined to grab total victory in the general elections and wants Singaporeans to elect PAP. In another statement he said that if people want opposition members, then he can provide several. Does this not expose his trick, his so-called parliamentary democratic ways, and also the opinions of his so-called honest followers?

CSO: 4213/63

CABINET APPROVES NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN

BK281415 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] The cabinet has come to the conclusion that the storing of nuclear waste in Papan, Perak, will not pose a danger to the local residents and those in the surrounding areas. As such, the proposal to store up thorium hydroxide radioactive waste in Papan will be implemented. The cabinet made this decision today after studying two separate reports, one by the United Kingdom National Radiological Protection Board and the other by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The two reports were made public today. They are available at the Tun Ismail Atomic Research Center for study in Bangi.

The minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Dr James Ongkili, who disclosed this, said the cabinet also decided that the method of storing the waste will be by using concrete trenches as proposed by the government. Steps will be taken to upgrade the safety of the storage facility. The [name indistinct] company will be required to take steps to ensure that radioactive waste collected in the compound of the company be handled and disposed of immediately and in a safe manner.

The minister says recommendations in the reports will enhance the certainty of the safety of the Papan residents and ensure that the storage facility in Papan will remain safe for several decades to come. He assures that the government will make certain that the company abides by the conditions laid down in the report such as improving and raising the site of the dump. Datuk Dr James Ongkili hoped the matter of safety of the people of Papan would no longer be raised as the government viewed the two reports as being final.

CSO: 4200/220

BRIEFS

POLICE WARNED ON SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES--The police force has been reminded to be aware of the activities of subversive elements. They should be prepared and act quickly to foil all plans by the country's enemies. In stating this, the deputy minister of home affairs, Mr Radzi Sheikh Ahmad, warned that certain groups were going all out to spread Islamic deviationist teachings for their own interest. They capitalized on certain situations in an attempt to cause disunity among the people. The banned Communist Party of Malaya, CPM, also makes use of similar opportunities. It frequently uses religion as an instrument to gain the support of the people. Mr Radzi disclosed that the CPM had formed the false party known as the Revolutionary Malaya Party. The communists make it seem that their struggle is similar to that of groups pressing for a better welfare of the Muslim community. Mr Radzi was speaking to newsmen in Kuala Lumpur. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Nov 84 BK]

CSO: 4200/220

ARRIVAL OF 900 PARAMILITARY POLICE

NC241208 Paris AFP in English 0948 GMT 24 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Noumea, 24 Nov (AFP)--Nine hundred more paramilitary police will be flown into New Caledonia this weekend, it was learned today, while Melanesian separatists indicated that they would release an official and halt a weeklong campaign of violence in the French Pacific territory.

However, police here said "very heavy clashes" had taken place today on the west coast, and that a police station was occupied at Pueblo and roads were blocked elsewhere in the western part of the territory.

In an interview with the French radio station Europe 1, Jean Tjibaou, head of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front, which has been heading the campaign, said that the French Government had hinted it might speed up the process of self-determination for New Caledonia.

"Anything which is a move towards opening talks on self-determination is very welcome," Mr Tjibaou said.

He announced the "suspension of all acts which show disapproval towards the creation of new institutions" in New Caledonia.

It was a reference to the election last Sunday of a new regional assembly, in which the rally to keep Caledonia in the republic, a neo-Gaullist and anti-separatist party, scored a landslide victory.

Mr Tjibaou said he would call for the immediate release of Jean-Claude Demar, the sub-prefect of the Loyalty Islands, which are 60 miles (100 kms) east of Noumea and are part of the New Caledonia territory.

Mr Lemoine said that the separatists had called for "a certain number of things, mainly to be recognized as a people which has been colonized." He did not specify any other conditions.

A senior FLNKS [not further expanded] official, Jean-Jacques Bourdinat, today told AFP that the front's leadership was to meet tonight to discuss a number of proposals that, he said, the French Government had put forward.

Mr Bourdinat added that the FLNKS would not organize any more demonstrations for the time being. A protest scheduled today to be held in the center of Noumea, whose population is overwhelmingly European, had been called off, he said.

The cancellation came a day after High Commissioner Jacques Roynette ordered a ban on demonstrations throughout the territory.

Today he announced that further heavy reinforcements of 900 paramilitary police would be flown in by Monday to combat the separatist violence.

With the return to France of 100 CRS riot police, a total of 1,300 paramilitary police will be deployed on the territory. They are backed by 2,400 French troops and 400 territorial police who are permanently based here.

Mr Demar has been detained in his offices by a crowd of 100 separatists since Thursday morning, while his deputy, Michel Jeanzac, was reported seized last night.

In the same radio programme, Georges Lemoine, secretary of state for overseas territories, confirmed that the Paris government would talk with the separatists, and hinted that the territory might be granted early self-rule.

CSO: 4200/222

SEPARATISTS NAME 'PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT'

NC251107 Paris AFP in English 1045 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Noumea, 25 Nov (AFP)--New Caledonian separatists today named a "provisional government," occupied police stations, set fire to properties belonging to opponents of independence, and provoked food shortages by pursuing a blockade of access roads to parts of this French Pacific colony, police said.

There were no reports of injuries, but the continued violence, which began after contested elections a week ago, led authorities to postpone a Pacific arts festival that was to have gathered 30 countries or dependencies in the region.

The festival, a quadrennial event that was to have been held from December 7 to 22, will take place at an unspecified later date, officials said.

But the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front, the Melanesian pro-independence group that has been held responsible for much of the recent violence here, said the postponement was "an insult to the people of the countries concerned, and therefore to the Kanak people."

The front, in a statement vowed to block any attempt to hold the festival at a later date. It said: "If the scheduled date is not maintained, there will never again be a festival in Kanak country, as long as Kanak socialist independence is not a reality."

The front also said it has created a provisional government, led by Jean-Marie Tjibaou, the incumbent vice-president of the local executive government.

Other members of the government, named at a "national convention" aimed at "laying groundwork for a future state of Kanaky," include Yann Celene Uregei as external relations minister, Yewwene Yewene as finance minister and Andre Gopea as interior and communications minister, the front said in a statement.

The "government" will be presented at the front's first congress, set for next Saturday near Noumea.

Meanwhile, anti-French violence continued, apparently dispelling any hope among authorities that a French pledge yesterday to accelerate talks on self-determination would bring a return to calm.

BRIEFS

EUROPEAN KILLED IN FIGHTING--Noumea, 30 Nov (AFP)--A European was fatally shot in a clash with Melanesians in northern New Caledonia Friday, gendarmes reported here. It apparently was the first death in the pro-independence agitation on this French South Pacific island. The Kanaks (Melanesians) reported that one of their men was killed too, but that had not yet been confirmed, Gendarme Colonel Pierre Marchasson told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. "It seems that there are seven wounded" by gunshot on both sides, he added. The dead white was named Emile Meziere. The fighting broke out near Creve-Coeur (broken-heart) pass after a group of Kanaks beat Eugene Guerin, 70, a farmer of French descent, in the north on Thursday. His wife was wounded in the shoulder with buckshot. She said after reaching a hospital that the Kanaks had left her husband for dead. But gendarmes found him still alive Thursday after a 12-hour search. At Poia, on the west coast, militants of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation FRONT (FLNKS) lifted a roadblock they established Friday morning but burned eight houses as they withdrew, Col Marchasson told AFP. They also ransacked three houses. Three more companies of gendarmes were expected to arrive Friday from France. That would bring the total security force to 1,500. [Text] [Paris AFP in English 0501 GMT 30 Nov 84 NC]

NONVIOLENCE OFFER WITHDRAWN--A leader of the independent movement in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia has withdrawn an offer to suspend the campaign of widespread disruption. The leader of the Kanak Socialist Party [FLNKS], Mr Jean-Marie Tjibaou, had also said that militants would release a French administrator abducted 3 days ago. However, after later reading a full text of a statement made by the external territories minister, Mr Lemoine, on the future of the territory's independence, Mr Tjibaou said it did not go far enough. Mr Tjibaou said the minister had not replied to Kanak's demands, and the undertaking to suspend the campaign of disruption and to release the administrator, Mr Jean-Claude Demar, was withdrawn. In his statement, Mr Lemoine said the French Government would appoint an envoy, Mr Charles (Barbeau), to discuss self-determination with all political groups in New Caledonia. However, UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL says the Kanak-led leaders have stated they want an envoy with power of decision, indicating they have rejected Mr (Barbeau). [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Nov 84 BK]

DEMONSTRATIONS DETAIN FRENCH ADMINISTRATOR--In New Caledonia, four French riot policemen have been shot and wounded--one seriously--during an operation to remove a roadblock placed by independence supporters. Demonstrators from the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front [FLNKS] had clashed with riot police minutes earlier at the roadblock at (Lacombe section) on the outskirts of the capital, Noumea. The demonstrators threw petrol bombs and rocks while the police used tear gas. The four riot police were wounded by shots fired from nearby brush when police brought in a bulldozer to remove the roadblock after dispersing the demonstrators. Police used stun grenades as they took away the wounded officers who are in the hospital in Noumea. In other developments, the French administrator of the Loyalty Islands, Mr Jean-Claude Demar, is still being detained in his offices on Lifou Island by FLNKS militants. At least six FLNKS roadblocks remain in place around New Caledonia. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL quotes residents and officials as saying road blockades still in place in the north are causing serious food shortages, and French officials have said they will airlift supplies to the region. [Text] [Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Nov 84 BK]

FABIUS JUSTIFIES POLICY--Giscard d'Estaing spoke on the New Caledonia issue in the National Assembly today. In his reply to Valery Giscard d'Estaing the prime minister, Laurent Fabius, in effect announced that a parliamentary debate on New Caledonia would be organized quickly, within 2 weeks. [Begin Fabius recording] In the course of all those years, there is always too little action, too late. When the Kanaks demanded autonomy, ladies and gentlemen, unfortunately, you were against it. When we granted autonomy, the autonomists were the independent. That is the basis of it. I add, Mr Speaker, that you asked me, you asked the government and in particular the prime minister, several questions on the statute. All the same I cannot but help react. When you protested the government's position, you said: Apply this statute--if I have correctly understood your thoughts--in order to a few minutes later to ask us to abandon it and come, or return to departmentalization. [End recording] [Excerpts] [Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 28 Nov 84 LD]

CSO: 4210/14

LANGE 'ANGERED' BY CAUCUS LEAKS

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 17 Oct 84 p 2

[Article by Peter Bale]

[Text]

Labour Parliamentarians are upset that the Prime Minister, Mr Lange, believes leaks have come from the caucus — including that on the appointment of the new High Commissioner to India, Sir Edmund Hillary.

One caucus member told the "Post" today new MPs, in particular, were concerned at the "very bad feeling" Mr Lange's suggestion that he could not tell the caucus certain things for fear of leaks had generated, and claimed they would raise it in tomorrow's caucus.

Another MP, who also did not wish to be named, proposed that the caucus room be "swept for bugs."

Angered

Mr Lange said this week he was angered by a leak of the Hillary appointment.

"I told caucus very carefully the last time I met them before my overseas trip, that I proposed to announce in New Delhi the appointment of Sir Edmund as High Commissioner to India. Within

about four minutes, the appointment was in the press.

"My policy is that if such a leak happens I won't tell caucus certain things. I'm not going to go around putting people on the rack, but if caucus isn't going to keep a secret then caucus doesn't get secrets," he said.

Asked why he thought the caucus was leaking, he said: "Because obviously there is a leak or two in caucus."

One new MP said Mr Lange's remarks had "brassed people off."

"He can't contain information from us to which we are entitled."

Scapegoat

The MP said there was a group of MPs "determined to show him (Mr Lange) that it's not acceptable."

"I don't believe we should be a scapegoat for other people's leaks," the MP said.

Most people in caucus were certain the Hillary leak did not come from the caucus, the MP said.

The MP said other leaks, claimed to have come from the caucus, had

come from elsewhere in the Administration.

Among these was a report on the attitude the Government might take in condemning the Khmer Rouge faction of the Kampuchean movement, the MP said. The reports appeared in the "Post" the day the issue was discussed in the caucus.

Clear

The MP also alleged that at the time of the Labour Party conference leaks occurred at a very high level yet the leaker actually instigated inquiries into its source.

The MP claimed the leakage issue would be raised to clear the air in caucus. Leaks occurred from time to time in any party organisation and should be plugged co-operatively — not by withhold-

ing information, the MP said.

"We're getting blamed by our own leadership, through the media, that is not acceptable."

Swept

One senior MP suggested that a way to help the problem was to have the caucus room "swept" — like the cabinet room — for electronic listening devices.

When Labour was in opposition, "our caucus room was leaking like a sieve," the MP said and sweeping had been suggested then.

The senior MP agreed that it was not acceptable for the Prime Minister to withhold information from the caucus other than on extremely sensitive issues like Security Intelligence Service work.

CSO: 4200/201

LANGE 'COMPROMISE' ON NUCLEAR POLICY UNDER FIRE

Government Caucus 'Unwillingness'

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 16 Oct 84 p 6

[Commentary by Tony Garnier in "Tony Garnier's Weekwatch": "Compromise Cannot Be Ignored"]

[Text]

THE GOVERNMENT caucus is showing itself as a foolhardy and intolerant beast on the anti-nuclear Anzus impasse. There seems to be a distinct unwillingness by the MPs to explore the subtleties which could lead to a compromise.

Even an apparent attempt last week by the Prime Minister, Mr Lange, to draw the distinction between nuclear power and nuclear weapons as a possible way through the impasse was slapped down with gusto by some MPs at the caucus.

Labour's foreign affairs policy doesn't admit the distinction between power and weapons, a fact which creates the prospect of the Anzus alliance collapsing. This prospect, in turn, will put New Zealand (and the other members of the alliance) into as yet uncharted territory.

It is tempting to praise the MPs for making a heroic stand on an issue which, at worst, threatens mankind's survival, and, at best, is eroding the quality of modern life.

All thinking New Zealanders dread the prospect of a nuclear holocaust. It is a natural progression of thinking to therefore oppose entry of nuclear weapons into New Zealand.

New Zealand was once the social laboratory of the world; why not be at the cutting edge of the "global village" bid to reduce the nuclear threat?

On the other hand, there is also a temptation to brand the way the Government caucus is going about this mission as unsophisticated and shortsighted.

Unless some careful rationality is injected into Labour's bid to translate the party policy into a fully considered and weighted government strategy, the MPs could soon be facing a backlash on several fronts.

Regardless of what some MPs have said, there is a linkage between defence (including nuclear issues), economic management and trade.

There is also an obvious political dimension, including whether the policy being followed is helping or hindering Labour's effort to stay in power beyond a single term.

Diplomats (who don't have to worry about holding a seat in Parliament) are making efforts to find a way through the impasse.

Some of their ideas include the so-called "Nordic option." Norway bans nuclear weapons on its soil, but accepts brief visits by American warships (nuclear or conventionally powered) in transit without challenging the "neither confirm nor deny" policy. Since 1977 there have been at least 15 visits by nuclear-powered vessels, including four last year and three this year. The latest was last month.

Another option would involve defining the policy to allow nuclear-powered vessels (for example, the Norway answer), but banning "strategic" nuclear weapons from entering New Zealand. This would make use of the idea of Anzus as a defensive alliance. Perhaps the US would compromise to that extent?

There is also the so-called credible deterrence view of nuclear weapons. Under this, nuclear weapons are political chess pieces in a global game in which one of the assumptions is that they will never be used.

As the head of West Germany's foreign ministry policy planning staff, Dr Konrad Seitz, said in Wellington last week, had a balance of power existed in Europe during the 1930s, the Second World War would not have occurred. It happened because of the superior strength of one side.

While the nuclear balance exists, there is a mutual deterrence against one side starting the unwinnable war.

However, Dr Seitz extended the logic another step, to the arms race in space. Here, the Soviet Union has an incentive because of the American superiority in electronic technology; there is, as yet, no credible deterrence in space, no balance of power.

On this view, the effort to establish nuclear free zones becomes redundant, as the focus of "real threat" of a nuclear war has moved on into space; the whole of planet Earth has become a single "zone," no one area is more immune or under threat than any other. And the impact of any conflict would be global.

Granted, there is a frightening fragility about these kinds of arguments.

However, this fact should serve to encourage MPs to ponder deeply before taking steps which could upset the global power balance. New Zealand, like it or not, is part of that balance. Is the current nuclear policy really going to help deterrence or will it undermine the global power balance, and discourage the resumption of a real dialogue between the superpowers?

Or, perhaps a more effective anti-nuclear strategy is to maintain contact with the superpowers so that a point of view can continue to be put? The protest fleet, whenever a nuclear

warship visits New Zealand, conveys an effective message, to the world, while maintaining the alliance. Sometimes a compromise on one point can create success in the long term.

Some Labour MPs have expressed concern that America might react against New Zealand (if the ban is enforced against its warships) by using the CIA to destabilise New Zealand. It would not be cricket, of course, and only encourage more New Zealanders to an anti-nuclear as well as anti-American stand. So, too, would a trade embargo.

Under America's domestic political set-up, there have been threatened trade embargoes before, and will be again: to stop casein imports in 1981, to dump surplus US butter on world markets. However, intervention by the White House, including President Reagan on at least one occasion, has stopped embargo proposals short of action.

If New Zealand is no longer in the alliance, the very reasons New Zealand has used in the past to ensure White House intervention on trade matters (to be a credible ally it must have access to the US market and be able to sell its products) will no longer apply.

Yet maybe that is a risk worth taking, too? For example, if the Americans did start dumping surplus butter, it could encourage New Zealand farmers to diversify more quickly into more profitable products? But at what short-term political cost?

That is, what the Government finally decides to do on the nuclear front will depend on its assessment of the domestic political advantages as against disadvantages.

Opinion polls show strong support for the stand against nuclear weapons,

but support for ship visits. Earlier polls suggest most New Zealanders support membership of the alliance.

At some point soon, a hard-headed Labour MP (Trade and Marketing Minister Michael Moore?) is likely to sit down with Mr Lange and mull over how far, if at all, the Government should compromise on its existing policy to avoid a backlash at the next election.

Here, a key will be to assess what the impact of the end of Anzus will have on domestic politics, and on trade access to the United States and Australia.

What is more important — winning elections, protecting markets or maintaining a particular stand against nuclear weaponry? Is there a middle course?

Mr Lange may, in the end, have to decide between upsetting some MP colleagues and the party faithful, as

against ensuring a second Labour election win.

Unquestionably, for some MPs a compromise on nuclear policy would not be worth the price of electoral victory. They would rather be politically dead. That is how strongly some MPs feel on this issue.

But it would be an irrational stand, if only because it could throw the baby out with the bath water.

Mr Lange has forcefully demonstrated his support and loyalty to the principle of nuclear weapons disinvolvement.

That is a key consideration which deserves the full support of MPs, even if it means a compromise on the less globally vital aspects of Labour's nuclear policy.

• Tony Garnier is the "Post's" chief political reporter.

SUP Critical of Compromise

Auckland NEW ZEALAND TRIBUNE in English 15 Oct 84 p 2

[Unsigned Commentary: "Is There a Nuclear-Powered Compromise?"]

[Text]

DAVID LANGE'S return from the United Nations, and his discussions with leaders of many countries, has prompted him to fly a few kites.

He seems to be trying to find a formula acceptable to the United States. This approach will inevitably lead to a loss of principled position.

He does say that New Zealand wants nothing to do with nuclear weapons; that is the bottom line, which is "not up for grabs."

As ANZUS stands today, it is an agreement with the United States involving all questions arising from a threat to any of the partners.

It obliges them to do nothing except decide their policy through each country's own national processes.

Let us be quite clear about US policy today. It is a nuclear policy involving confrontation and it aims to impose its 'leadership' through nuclear strength.

Its policy today has changed radically under the present administration, which has thrown out the policy of detente and replaced it with one of military superiority,

which President Reagan claims is for peace.

Peace can never be secured through nuclear superiority, or any other form of force.

Our New Zealand concept of a nuclear-free zone means that we want nothing to do with nuclear weapons and, further, that we want them eliminated.

If we search for nations with the same outlook we will find them, outside of the so-called Western alliance, in the socialist states and most of the developing world.

If a non-nuclear-armed ship were sent here and we accepted it, it would still be a part of the total US armed forces based on nuclear superiority. This would be true if they sent a mothballed tub which was neither nuclear-powered nor nuclear-armed.

Trying to accommodate the

United States over these diametrically-opposed policies will be fruitless.

The Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, has accused the United States of interfering in her country. Nobody disputes the interference in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Grenada, and even the quiet pressuring of Japan to become a military power under the wing of the United States.

All this means that New Zealand's basic premise of a nuclear-free-zone for the area and a nuclear-free-territory for New Zealand is our decision and our objective. That is the "bottom line which is not up for grabs." That is the moral issue.

Our dealings with other countries should start from that premise, or we will be stepping onto a slippery slope. ■

CSO: 4200/201

LANGE POPULARITY ON PAR WITH HAWKE IN 17 OCT 84 POLL

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 17 Oct 84 p 7

[Text]

The popularity of Prime Minister Mr David Lange is comparable to the Australian premier Bob Hawke, according to an "Eye Witness News"-Heylen poll tonight.

A petition calling for Parliament to review the Urban Transport Act was presented to the house yesterday by Pencarrow MP Mr Fraser Colman.

Petition

The petition was presented on behalf of the Wainuiomata Rural County Association and stated that rural ratepayers in the Wainuiomata Riding of the Hutt County were seriously disadvantaged by the act because of the way urban transport areas were defined.

But the popular support for Mr Lange has not flowed over into his policies, and the poll showed public opinion was uncertain about the benefits of the recent Economic Summit, and a large number were dissatisfied at the way the economy was going.

The poll showed the country was reasonably happy with the performance of the first three months of Labour's reign, and Mr Lange's own popularity has risen, from 70 percent in September to 75 percent this month.

"Eye Witness News" said tonight that was on a par with Mr Hawke's peak earlier this year. He now had a 69 percent approval rate.

Sir Robert Muldoon, leader of the Opposition, was heading in the other direction. His disapproval

rating has increased four points to 50 percent. Those who approve remained steady at 34 percent.

Public opinion on Government economic policy had changed this month. The poll showed before the recent Economic Summit conference 73 percent approved of the plan but after only 42 percent approved the outcome. Forty-five percent were unsure about the outcome.

The poll showed only 14 percent were satisfied with the state of the economy, 44 percent had no strong feeling, but 41 percent said they were dissatisfied.

Of the Government's overall performance, 58 percent approved of what it was doing, up slightly. But the number who disapproved was up five points to 20 percent, with less uncommitted. — NZPA.

CSO: 4200/201

STATISTICS SHOW 6.8 PERCENT GDP INCREASE

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 17 Oct 84 p 23

[Text]

New Zealand's gross domestic product — the value in current prices of all goods and services produced in the domestic economy — increased 6.8 percent in the year to March 31, the Government Statistician has provisionally estimated.

GDP was valued at \$34,435 million compared with \$32,240 million in the previous year.

Removing the effects of the changing value of money between the two years, the estimate of real GDP (GDP in constant prices) rose 2.7 percent.

Surplus

The national accounts to March 31 show that the producers' operating surplus (about equal to producers' net profit before the deduction of interest paid or the addition of interest received) increased 11.9 percent, from \$10,146 million to \$11,351 million.

Total compensation of employees (mostly salaries and wages) lifted 1.6 percent from \$17,276 million to \$17,556 million.

Central and local government subsidies were down 4.8 percent from \$769 million to \$732 million. Supplementary minimum price payments to farmers (SMPS) fell from \$392 million to \$310 million.

Stocks in the economy increased by \$722 million — 29.1 percent less than the previous year's increase of \$1018 million.

Buildings

Total gross fixed capital formation (investment in buildings, machinery, plant and other equipment) jumped 7.1 percent from \$7425 million to \$7952 million. Central government made a major contribution to this increase, gaining 14.4 percent, from \$2058 million to \$2354 million.

Final consumption expenditure increased 6.3 percent. The private sector lifted 7.2 percent from \$19,058 million to \$20,421 million and central and local government increased 3.7 percent from \$5632 million to \$5842 million.

The balance of trade deficit in goods and services fell 80.5 percent from \$1138 million to \$221 million.

lion, the external transactions account shows.

The value of exports of goods and services increased 17.9 percent from \$9116 million to \$10,752 million and imports of goods and services lifted 7 percent from \$10,254 million to \$10,973 million.

Property

Net property and entrepreneurial payments to the rest of the world increased 31.2 percent from about \$860 million to \$1128 million and net current transfers from the rest of the world fell from \$118 million to \$113 million.

The net effect of these transactions with other countries was to decrease the deficit of the nation on current account from \$1880 million to \$1236 million.

TRANSNATIONAL UNION HEAD REJECTS ANZUS

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 17 Oct 84 p 5

[Text]

Leaders of the central trade union organisations in Australia and New Zealand yesterday called for the scrapping of the Anzus Treaty and condemned all military alliances.

After the annual meeting of the Australia New Zealand Trade Union Co-ordinating Council in Wellington, the president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, Mr Cliff Dolan, said that Anzus "does not offer a great deal to anyone."

His view was echoed strongly by the president of the New Zealand Federation of Labour, Mr Jim Knox, who said: "We do not need it. The treaty is not made for modern conditions in the Pacific as far as we are concerned."

No Pressure

In a joint declaration the two organisations supported the New Zealand Government's ban on nuclear ships and weaponry but avoided any criticism of the Australian federal Government's opposition to that stand.

Mr Dolan said he did not believe the Australian Government was putting any pressure on New Zealand to change its attitude to warship visits.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke had recently made it clear that no attempt would be made to override the sovereign right of New Zealand to close its ports to nuclear ships, though there was concern in Canberra at the threat to the Anzus Treaty.

Disarmament

"My personal opinion is that Anzus needs to be looked at," Mr Dolan said. "It does not seem to offer a great deal to anyone. Perhaps the only thing it has ever done for Australia was to get us involved in that dirty, stinking Vietnam war."

"I do not believe we need any defence pact," he said, "if we are talking about disarmament and peace. why do we need armed forces and defence pacts?"

The closer economic relations agreement ranked high in the discussions between the two organisations

yesterday but afterwards Mr Dolan said it produced nothing of serious concern to Australian unions so far.

The ACTU was monitoring the functioning of CER and was in close contact with the Australian Department of Trade.

"Apart from some minor hiccups we cannot see a great disadvantage one way or another to the workforce in either country," Mr Dolan said. "Trade has increased substantially both ways."

Recent outbreaks of violence between New Zealand shearers working across the Tasman and their Australian counterparts were not discussed at the meeting of the co-ordinating council.

Shearers

Both Mr Dolan and Mr

Knox said the dispute had not been referred to their organisations by unions representing the shearers of either country.

Mr Knox said: "It is a matter for the unions concerned and I believe they have been in contact. The sooner they get together around the table and iron out the problems the better for the shearers of both countries."

Mr Dolan warned that an All Black rugby team touring South Africa next year might once again have to travel around the globe to circumvent a union ban on its transit through Australia.

Mr Knox said that "if it was necessary" the FOL would call for ACTU support to oppose a tour of South Africa next year, "but as yet that matter has not been discussed between the trade union organisations."

DAILY WELCOMES 'FAVORABLE' AUSTRALIAN REPORT ON CER

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 17 Oct 84 p 16

[Editorial: "Senate Report on C.E.R."]

[Text]

The first report of the Australian Senate's Standing Committee on Industry and Trade into the Closer Economic Relations Agreement is much more favourable to the trade treaty than many had expected it to be. This is especially so considering the circumstances of its inquiry. One of those who most wanted the inquiry is a Tasmanian Liberal, Senator Brian Archer. Tasmania has held some fears that New Zealand horticulture would damage the horticultural industry of Tasmania. Senator Archer argued that the inquiry came about because of frustrations and fears in Australian industry about C.E.R. and that these fears became more pronounced after New Zealand's 20 per cent devaluation in July. To a certain extent, Senator Archer's opposition became the focus for the discontent to be found in a few industries in Australia.

Instead of presenting a catalogue of complaints about C.E.R., the first report of the committee found that Australia had not been prepared to take advantage of the provisions of C.E.R. Senator Ruth Coleman, who tabled the report in the Senate, said that C.E.R. was the most significant trade document signed by either country. Among the areas that the report found in need of immediate attention were Australia's lack of preparedness; the poor use of Exclusive Australian Licences in the first 18 months; the likely disruptive effects of devaluation; the need for the two countries to reach agreement on foreign investment guidelines to be applied in each country; different labelling and standards requirements; and the discussion of second-generation issues. She also mentioned trade in agricultural and horticultural products as a matter deserving attention.

The first report was presented without consideration of the submissions made by firms and interested organisations. New Zealand is itself expected to make a submission. However, the first report will help to set a tone for the inquiry. There is probably very little in the first report that the New Zealand Government would dispute. Australia was not prepared for the advent of C.E.R. in the way that New Zealand geared itself. In New Zealand, the Muldoon Government considered that it had to coax manufacturers into accepting C.E.R. Each step was taken gradually and there could hardly have been any manufacturers in New Zealand who were not aware that a new trade treaty with Australia was being forged, or unaware of how it might affect their business. Many Australian manufacturers, by contrast, discovered C.E.R. only when it had been signed. This difference meant that New Zealand manufacturers were ready to take advantage of C.E.R. when it came into force and the Australian manufacturers, as the report correctly observes, were not.

The New Zealand devaluation caused some discontent among Australian competitors in the Australian market. The devaluation was intended to stem the outflow of funds from New Zealand, not to improve New Zealand's trading position in Australia. In any event, it is by no means clear that New Zealand manufacturers dropped their Australian prices after the devaluation. Many, remembering that they would soon start losing the advantages of the performance-based export incentives, preferred to hold their prices and take a bigger profit margin. Stronger sellers can do this, and the advantage of devaluation falls to New Zealand.

Weak sellers, after devaluation, can afford to lower their Australian prices and be no worse off in New Zealand dollars. A strong seller may elect to lower prices and capture a bigger share of the market abroad. Either way, the devaluation was not intended as a thrust against Australian business. Were it taken to be so, especially if New Zealand exporters dropped their Australian prices substantially, the mood in Australian business may sour against C.E.R.

The New Zealand Government would be delighted if the recommendation of the Senate committee were followed and if similar foreign investment guidelines were applied in each country. For New Zealand, the differences over foreign investment practices have been the single most contentious issue in trade relations between the two countries. New Zealand is still awaiting a resolution on the point. Some New Zealand firms seemed bold about setting up ventures in Australia, and they have felt annoyed about the restrictions they faced. Similarly, the New Zealand Government will greet with enthusiasm the fact that the Senate report identified different standards and labelling requirements. Some work has already been done to establish common practices. Various committees in the two countries are

working together to rectify differences. The Senate committee's report might give more urgency to the process.

The further recommendation that there was a need to begin formal discussion on the so-called second-generation issues, which include investment and harmonisation of various other practices, indicates that the intention is to move forward with C.E.R. In spite of the affirmative way in which the treaty is being viewed, some concern will remain in Australia because many Australian firms will consider, with some justice, that New Zealand has easier access to Australia than Australia has to New Zealand.

When C.E.R. was negotiated, New Zealand was recognised as the weaker partner and in need of more time to adjust. Such recognition by public servants and by politicians does not mean that some Australian exporters will take the same sympathetic view. In both New Zealand and Australia there will be some firms which will be hurt by the processes of C.E.R. Time has been given for them to adjust, but those who see an end to their present place in the market will not be among the supporters of C.E.R. To most traders, however, the possibilities are much greater than they used to be.

CSO: 4200/201

AUSTRALIA CHALLENGES LAMB EXPORTS TO JAPAN

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 15 Oct 84 p 2

[Article by Bruce Roscoe]

[Text]

Australia is using grain-fed and chilled lamb to launch a frontal assault on New Zealand's share of the Japanese lamb market.

The Japanese importer, Nozaki and Company, Ltd, believes that high-quality Australian carcasses, from computer-controlled production lines, offer Japanese end-users a more economic proposition than lamb cuts manually processed in New Zealand.

The president of Nozaki, Mr Koichi Hasegawa, after inspecting Australian production and shipping facilities late last month, told Australian journalists that Australia could capture "at least 10 per cent" of the yearly 23,000-tonne sheepmeat trade on Japan's northerly Hokkaido island. Most of that volume is twice-frozen New Zealand product.

Initial orders for chilled lamb, placed with Kilcoy Pastoral Company of Queensland, call for the shipment of 4000 carcasses by the end of this month.

The grain-fed lamb, however, has been raised in the

New England area of New South Wales on a specially formulated grain ration for 45 days.

Nozaki and Company, Ltd, says that this year it will import 200 tonnes of Australian lamb worth \$NZ1.08 million. The company is confident that it can treble this figure next year.

Nozaki began regular imports in July, under a tie-up with lamb producers affiliated with the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation (A.M.L.C.).

Nozaki is supplying the Australian lamb to Japanese supermarkets. Last year its meat imports were worth \$83 million. It has been a customer of Australian mutton for some years but the lamb deals are its first.

Asia New Zealand Meat Company, Ltd, the Meat Board's Tokyo importer, has rejected a request by the Seiyu Foods company for a trial shipment of New Zealand grain-fed lamb.

Mr Graeme Harrison, director of Asia New Zealand Meat, says New Zealand will raise grain-fed lamb only when it secures a

long-term supply contract from Seiyu. Seiyu, however, has so far declined to commit itself to long-term buying, at least until it sees a sample of the New Zealand product.

Australia is taking advantage of New Zealand's hesitancy to enter the grain-fed lamb market.

The A.M.L.C. will feature on Wednesday its grain-fed and pasture-fed lamb and beef at a Tokyo hotel promotion. Hundreds of Japanese meat buyers and food industry executives have been invited.

While New Zealand and Australian lamb exporters are openly waging a price war in the Japanese marketplace, a move is under way for less throat-cutting and more co-operation.

Sheepmeat industry experts of both countries met in Sydney last week to hammer out some sort of joint marketing plan for Japan.

Official New Zealand sources were not optimistic that the first meeting would produce any definite co-operative scheme but wel-

comed the step towards an implementation of a Closer Economic Relations treaty provision for joint marketing in shared overseas markets.

Meanwhile, the Meat Board's plans to establish its second Tokyo sheepmeat importing business, Japan New Zealand Lamb Marketing, Ltd, appear to have hit a snag. According to C. S. Stevens meat company of Christchurch, a partner in the venture, the company was to have opened in Tokyo on October 1. Top Trading (Far East), Ltd, also a partner, has confirmed that October 1 was the proposed starting date.

However, there is no sign of the new company.

Japanese meat traders are already resisting the establishment of the company. They say they have learned that it also intends to prohibit them from directly importing lamb cuts from New Zealand, but will instead demote them to the position of wholesaler. Only a selected few companies are expected to get a share of this business.

CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF ON USSR THREAT TO SOUTH PACIFIC

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 15 Oct 84 p 4

[Text] Dunedin, Oct 14 (PA)--The Soviet threat to the South Pacific is growing, according to the Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Cedric Steward.

Sea routes around the southern oceans and through the Tasman Sea were assuming "new strategic significance," he said at the weekend in Dunedin where he was attending the annual conference of the Navy League.

"Of particular concern must be the development of Soviet military support facilities which are continually being upgraded," he said.

"The Soviet navy is an offensive navy and has become a major instrument of state policy. The Soviets have long abandoned the logic of reason for spreading their particular ideology and realised it is the logic of force and intimidation which counts."

Rear Admiral Steward said New Zealand was vulnerable to indirect pressures because of its long and exposed sea lines of communication both in the Pacific and the West.

"I have heard of claims which support the complete innocence of many Soviet fishing and merchant vessels which frequent the nearby oceans.

"It should be noted that the majority of these vessels in the Pacific fleet area, apart from intelligence gathering, can be quickly and easily converted to minelayers," he said.

The Rear Admiral stated that such claims of innocence--"biased propaganda"--should not be spread without reference to all the facts.

"Sea power is not only the naval fleets but also the commercial fleet, the fishing fleet and the fleet of research ships," he said.

CSO: 4200/201

CANOY: OPPOSITION OFFERS NO ALTERNATIVE TO MARCOS, NPA

Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 31 Oct 84 p 3

[Text]

A ranking opposition leader of Mindanao has expressed strong fears that the government and the opposition are unwittingly complementing one another in pushing the country to the brink of communism.

Addressing members of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters sa Pilipinas (KBP), former Assemblymen Reuben R. Canoy also warned that unless the situation is effectively reversed by a more rational government policy, "Mindanao could turn into another Vietnam."

Premising his views on a recent credibility survey that both the Marcos administration and the political opposition are rated low — "untruthful and incompetent" — as source of help for people in their desperation, Canoy said, "Marcos has thus become the best promoter of communism throughout the land, and the opposition his unwitting accomplices."

Citing facts and figures Canoy said that far from repeated disclaimers, the New People's Army (NPA) has gained more strength.

"The irony is that this steady growth has been achieved by the NPA not because of the attraction of the communist ideology but because of the people's disenchantment with the government and the present state of affairs," Canoy said.

Ticking off points that caused the breakdown of public faith in the national leadership —

like military abuses, official corruption and graft, crony capitalism and now the economic debacle — Canoy viewed the political opposition as an aggragation being fragmented by personal ambitions and unable to present a clear vision of the future, thus failing to gain the total confidence of the young looking for an alternative to the Marcos government.

"Unless a credible third force emerges soon to fill the vacuum, or unless the moderate and non-violent opposition

succeeds in becoming a more potent and effective vehicle for peaceful political change, there is danger that in desperation, our people may turn to the communists to rescue them from poverty and injustice," Canoy said.

Canoy viewed the communists as more ready to assume power than traditional politicians, saying they have a party, a ready political and economic platform, an army, and have established an invisible government in the areas under their control.

The real struggle, according to Canoy, is not between Marcos and the politicians opposed to his rule, but between those who believe in democracy and those who advocate communism.

He said this struggle, which has been draining the country's resources at the rate of P2 million a day, is the destructive war being fought by the army and the rebels in mountains and forests and in dark alleys and sidestreets of the cities.

"What is alarming is that the communists are winning small victories not because of the justice of their cause but because the government has lost the moral right to plead for the cause of democracy, justice and freedom," Canoy said.

He said that while there is reason to believe that communism cannot

thrive in this democratic and religious country, the communists are not offering communism but what he described "the promise of liberation from a corrupt and unjust government."

Alarmed by the way some opposition leaders are temporarily getting into an alliance with the communists and choosing to ignore the experience in other countries, Canoy cited the example of Nicaragua where the church, the businessmen and the moderate politicians thought of using the communists in the effort to oust the dictator Anastacio Somoza but finding out to their regret that it was the better armed and better organized communists who had used them instead.

"We should then act as agents of change by insuring a free flow of information and ideas between those who govern and the governed," Canoy said in enjoining media members to more courageous in regaining the respectability and credibility of the profession in serving the people's right to know and to be heard.

Canoy cited that since the declaration of martial law, 8 media practitioners all from Mindanao have lost their lives while engaged in journalistic activities.

Canoy stressed that Mindanao, as a microcosm sharing more of the ills tormenting and dividing the country, has become the typical challenge at present for media men to exert every effort to regain justice and freedom for the people.

CSO: 4200/204

ISABELA GOVERNMENT, CHURCH LEADERS STRENGTHEN TIES

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 31 Oct 84 p 10

[Article by Antenor B. Parazo]

[Text]

Isabela government officials and Catholic church authorities have renewed their friendly ties and their "covenant to work more closely together for the welfare of Isabelanos"

These cordial relations were strengthened during the visit to Quezon City of the statue of Virgin Mary, who is worshipped as Nuestra Señora Guibang in Isabela. The image is enshrined in Barangay Guibang, midway along the national highway from Cauayan and Ilagan, Isabela.

Bishop Miguel Purugganan, head of the Catholic diocese of Isabela, said that despite the political differences of some people of Isabela, there is no reason why they cannot stay together and love each other "because we are all children of the blessed Virgin Mary."

Isabela Gov. Faustino N. Dy, who led some 1,000 Manila-based Isabelanos in paying homage to the blessed Virgin in the Angelicum school gymnasium in Quezon City, assured Isabela Catholic church authorities of government and public support to all religious sects,

particularly the Catholics in the province.

Gov. Dy said that both the provincial government and the Catholic officials in Isabela had long been working together to keep the unity of the people of the province.

The governor said that he could not think of any reason why there should be anything that would threaten the friendly ties between Isabela Catholics and

local governments, because both share a common cause — unity, progress, and spiritual growth in the province.

Told by Bishop Purugganan and Mons. Marino Gatan of Isabela Catholics plan to build a cathedral in Ilagan, Isabela's capital town, Gov. Dy promised substantial financial support to the project from both local governments and business sectors in the province.

The small church in which the image of the blessed Virgin is enshrined is full of Catholic devotees everyday, paying homage to the Holy Mother.

The image has been known for generations to have performed miracles that had been of great help to the people, especially the poor and the depressed, according to old folks from everywhere in Cagayan Valley.

CSD YOUTH PREPARE FOR MANGLAPUS RETURN

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 31 Oct 84 p 5

[Text]

The Young Christian Social Democrats (YCSD) announced yesterday preparations to welcome former Senator Raul S. Manglapus.

Manglapus made the announcement in Washington recently through aide Jose Ortiz, that "his homecoming cannot be prevented by political persecution, arrest, and death threats."

Speaking through its secretary-general, Bobby Brillante, YCSD said, "The return of Senator Manglapus will galvanize various cause-oriented political organizations with Christian inspirations. Then he will help solidify a united opposition that would offer a political alternative based on social justice, parti-

cipative democracy, and national sovereignty."

YCSD, formerly the Young Christian Socialists of the Philippines (YCSP) is the youth arm of the Christian Social Movement (CSM) of which Manglapus, is president. Lawyer Ramon Tagle, Jr. is the CSM secretary-general.

Brillante, who lived in Washington in self-exile for four years returned home shortly before the May 14 National Assembly elections. While in Washington, he worked with Manglapus as executive secretary of the Washington office, incharge of lobbying against US support for the Marcos regime.

EDITORIAL: FOREIGN INTERVENTION LEADING TO 'SOCIAL VOLCANO'

Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 28 Oct 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Foreign Intervention"]

[Text] Each day that passes, the pressure of foreign intervention on everyone of us has become more apparent--and painful! We do not know what will happen next, but we feel that this alien force has become a contradictory indicator for a country which is already saddled by too much problems.

Whether in judicial, economic or political aspects, the portraits of foreign intervenors continue to haunt us, mercilessly pushing the Filipino people against the wall. We want to fight back, but the shackles that have been holding our arms and legs stop us.

A lot of us Filipinos have sometimes become arrogant unto ourselves. We brand US intervention as part of dictatorship of the Marcos regime but we fail to see for ourselves that we have been blinded by almost anything that is American, from capitalism to dollars.

Foreign intervention has affected drastically the transition this country has been aspiring for. Even in the Aquino inquiry, the ugly truth about alien forces lurks behind, and the President himself is helpless in pronouncing that these forces are stepping on the Filipino toes.

The President himself aptly described the Philippine condition as a "social volcano" years before he implemented military rule, and it seems the allegory he was pointing out is about to erupt. The message written on the walls and the echoes of the destitute and the oppressed confirm the threat of the eruption of a "social volcano." If this thing happens, nobody can be blamed but our superfluous love for anything foreign.

As early as today, the US government has contemplated of moving away its major bases from the country despite the fact that it feels an obligation to sustain the Philippines from communist takeover. This brings to mind the fear that foreign intervention is worse than what it professes to be.

Years from hereon this country will be changed not because we have worked our own schemes, but because we have become slaves to foreign masters. Even the President himself is not spared from this truth.

Who can stop these foreign forces is a task which rests largely on the courage of the Filipino people. If the roots of foreign intercession is not nipped earlier, nobody expects it to be curtailed when the trunks have become sturdy and defiant.

6,000 PROTEST PIMENTEL OUSTER IN CAGAYAN DE ORO

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 29 Oct 84 p 2

[Text] Cagayan de Oro--Political leaders of the PDP-Laban led by its national chairman, Assemblyman Aquilino Pimentel Jr., yesterday denounced as "baseless and shameless" the recent Comelec ruling ousting Pimentel from the Batasang Pambansa.

The denunciation was aired during an indignation rally attended by some 6,000 PDP-Laban followers.

The opposition leaders said it came as a surprise how the Comelec could say that the questioned election returns had been falsified and tampered with when they (Comelec) did not even examine a single return.

At the same time, they pointed out that the PDP-Laban had no representative in the citizens' election committee during the May 14 elections.

"Therefore, they had no hand in the preparation of the returns nor had any inspectors, the party being not a dominant opposition party," they claimed.

"It is therefore ridiculous for the PDP-Laban to be accused...when they did not have anything to do with the preparation of the election returns," they added.

Among the speakers in the rally, aside from Pimentel, were Assemblyman Jaime Ferrer (PDP-Laban, Metro Manila), Assemblyman Antonio Cuenco (PDP-Laban, Cebu), Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Pablo P. Magtajas, Mayor Vicente Imano of Tagoloan town (PDP-Laban provincial chairman) and other local leaders.

A march starting from Gaston Park and passing through the city's main streets preceded the rally held at the amphitheater. The march was also joined by representatives from the youth sector, farmers, professionals and other party followers.--Proc Maslog.

CSO: 4200/193

'MILITANT ORGANIZATIONS' FEAR GOVERNMENT 'CRACKDOWN' IN DAGUPAN CITY

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 30 Oct 84 pp 1, 11

[Text] Dagupan City--Five militant organizations here have expressed alarm over reports that seven persons have been missing since Oct. 15 and were believed to have been picked up by the military.

The group said that there seemed to be a crackdown on activists and student leaders. The group said that even the worst criminals are entitled to due process and full constitutional rights.

The five organizations are the Aggrupment of Concerned Citizens of Pangasinan, headed by lawyer Santos Arriola; Pangasinan Press and Radio Club, led by Manny Vent Cornel, its executive president; Trial Lawyers Association of Pangasinan, headed by Teodoro P. Regino; and the Coalition of Organizations for the Restoration of Democracy (CORD), Pangasinan chapter, headed by lawyer Gonzalo Duque, and the Northern Luzon Media Confederation headed by Bulletin correspondent Jun Velasco. (J. Velasco)

Baguio City--A wave of arrests have been implemented in Pangasinan province by a military group resulting in the reported arrest of seven persons who have been reported missing since last Oct. 15.

Arrested and still missing are Michael Morden, 23, of Villasis, Pangasinan; Victor Marco Vistro, 18, secretary-General of the Pangasinan Student Forum and student of the University of Pangasinan; Marilou Marigsa, church worker and daughter of a Protestant minister; Teresita Oliveros, 27, from Rosales, Pangasinan; Adelina Estrada, 40, chairman of a fishermen's organization called ALON-PA; Gerry de Guzman from San Fernando, La Union; and a farmer whose identity was not immediately known.

The disappearance of the seven was known last Saturday from the office of Task Force Detainees of Pangasinan.

Mrs. Teresita Vistro said she was with her son Victor Marco in their house when a group of armed men believed to be intelligence agents invited him for questioning for reasons not explained to them.

She said she hesitated at first but agreed to let Victor Marco go with the men when one of the men assured her that her son would be safe.

However, she said that when Victor Marco did not return home that day, she sought the help of some friends who told her the man who introduced himself was actually an MIG agent.

Efforts to locate the seven at the Camp Dangwa in Benguet province and at various military stockades in Pangasinan proved futile.

However, sources said Victor Marco was being detained at the Langayen PC stockage and Morden and Estrada are reportedly being held in Baguio City. Relatives of the seven missing persons have expressed concern for the safety of their sons and daughters. (Isidoro Chammag)

CSO: 4200/193

MILITARY LINKED TO REBELS ACCUSED OF ORCULLO MURDER

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 29 Oct 84 pp 1, 6

[Article by Divina C. Paredes]

[Text] Davao City--The 10 Muslim rebel returnees suspected of killing Mindawit editor and human rights advocate Alex Orcullo belong to a terrorist group which has close links with the military.

This was revealed over the weekend by residents and government officials of this city who denounced the killing of Orcullo, 38, a leading opposition figure.

Orcullo will be buried today with some 30,000 mourners expected to join the biggest funeral march in the city starting at 9 a. m. Opposition leaders Agapito "Butz" Aquino, secretary general of the Coalition of Organizations for the Restoration of Democracy, Leandro Alejandro, and lawyer Alex Padilla, secretary general of the National Alliance for Justice, Freedom and Democracy, will join the march.

A fact-finding committee of the National Press Club gathered that the suspects behind the Oct. 19 murder of Orcullo are members of the Philippine Liberation Organization (PLO), a right wing group assisting the military in anti-insurgency operation.

The PLO reportedly penetrated sitios Uyon Uno and Uyon Dos, both in Tugbok district, last Oct. 11 and forced some 150 families to evacuate the Davao Development Village in Mandug where Orcullo was the barangay captain.

Orcullo had been vocal about the PLO's arrest of workers from nearby Lapanday Agricultural Development Corp. (LADECO).

City secretary Cesar Nunez said he later confirmed from Col. Geronimo Valderrama, PC provincial commander, that there was a military operation in barangay Tugbok the day the PLO occupied the remote village. Valderrama was quoted by Nunez as saying that the operation was conducted by the regional command under Brig. Gen. Dionisio Tan-Gatue.

The local police has identified the leader of the group which murdered Orcullo as Abubakar Karsolo, known as Kapitan Inggo, a former commander of the Bangsa Moro Army, military arm of the MNLF.

Sgt. Daniel Corral, station commander, said they have launched a manhunt for Kapi-tan Inngo immediately after he was identified by witnesses.

Orcullo was driving a blue Toyota car with his wife Benita, 32, and their son, Merdeka Alexander, 2, when they were blocked by heavily armed men in fatigue and camouflage uniform at Km 10 of the Davao-Mandug road.

While two armed men poked their guns at Benita and the child, eight men dragged Alex out of the car and shot at the back and head.

The widow said one of the armed men noticed Orcullo moaning and shot him three times more at the back. Orcullo suffered multiple gunshot wounds but the police recovered four empty shells of .45 cal. pistols and two empty shells of an armalite rifle.

CSO: 4200/193

EXILE MANGLAPUS INDICATES PREPARATIONS TO RETURN HOME

Quezon City ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA in English 29 Oct 84 pp 1, 2

[Article by George Brooks]

[Text] Washington--Former senator Raul Manglapus, a political expatriate in the United States since 1972, is preparing to return to his homeland "in the very near future," a top aide disclosed over the weekend.

Details of the homecoming were not released and no specific date was cited, but the return of the ex-solon, one of President Marcos' severest critics in the US, "is at this point almost certain," according to Jose Ortiz, deputy director for the Washington DC-based Movement for Free Philippines (MFP).

The former foreign minister's homecoming would bring to an end nearly 13 years of exile in the US since President Marcos declared martial law in 1972, abolished Congress and jailed most opposition party members.

Manglapus was in Tokyo en route to California for a speaking engagement when news of the Marcos coup reached him. Unable to return to a hostile military government and facing certain incarceration, he proceeded to the US and started the life of an exile.

A year later, he organized the MFP, a composite group of political exiles, critics and opposition supporters and sympathizers. Since 1973 he has led, and lobbied propaganda efforts through four American presidents (Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan) in a bid to convince US lawmakers and the American public to withdraw their support for President Marcos.

These campaigns were marked by moderate successes through the years.

Ortiz said crucial to Manglapus' return are the security arrangements the details of which are being closely studied and analyzed by his trusted aides.

"We are making sure that none of the circumstances that led to the Aquino assassination be repeated on Mr. Manglapus' return. If we have to tie ourselves to him, we will," Ortiz said.

Ortiz also disclosed there had been an aborted attempt on the senators' life in 1978 and that a ranking Philippine armed forces general had sent the assassin to the US with orders to kill Manglapus.

Manglapus himself revealed the alleged attempt on his life at a press conference in Washington DC last year during which the opposition aired charges that the Marcos government has been using diplomats in the US to harass and intimidate Filipino oppositionists through bribery, threat and espionage.

Manglapus told newsmen that the attempt failed when the intended assassin unexpectedly changed heart and instead, through an intermediary, sought to have an audience with him.

The alleged meeting, according to Manglapus, took place in the Chicago home of a Filipino newsmen working for the CHICAGO SUN TIMES.

During the alleged consultation, the intended assassin reportedly confessed all, including an allegation that the Filipino general had offered to drop murder charges pending against him (the assassin) if he agreed to kill the former senator.

Upon his return, Manglapus will be facing possible arrest for charges that include sabotage, subversion and of plotting to kill top government officials, including President Marcos.

"Senator Manglapus," claimed Ortiz, "has the longest list of charges among the local and exiled dissidents."

Ortiz, however, declined to comment on any course of action they would take should the arrest of Manglapus become imminent upon his arrival in the Philippines.

"We are considering a number of alternatives," he said.

Before he flew to the US, in 1972, Manglapus was a leading figure in the Senate. He is best remembered for his authorship of the land reform bill which, according to MFP economic analysts, Marcos had used as the model for his own land reform program.

He is most remembered, however, for his attempt to form a left of center political party which envisions democratic socialism as a basis for its platform of government. He did this in the belief that political parties in the Philippines were basically the same and offered no real ideological alternatives to the people.

On his return, Manglapus is expected to pick off where he had left off in 1972. He will presumably lead the Christian Social Democratic Party (CSDP) which is composed of Filipino Christians and social democrats.

As vice-president of the Christian Democratic International organization of Christian Democratic Parties, Manglapus will be counting on support from other world members especially those that are now in power in Europe and Latin America.

COLUMNIST WARNS AGAINST FORMATION OF AFP DEATH SQUAD

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 31 Oct 84 p 6

[Commentary by Apolonio Batalla: "Death Squads"]

[Text]

THE highest authorities of the land should be alerted to the possible formation of "death squads" within the ranks of the military and paramilitary forces. For if death squads are wittingly or unwittingly tolerated, the troubles traced by the government to the so-called "sparrow" units of the NPA will be compounded. Death squads would not solve the problem of the rebellion in the countryside.

A warning is apt because of the tendency to shortcut the law. That tendency is seen in the creation of the "secret marshals" a few years back and their revival some time ago. The marshals were disbanded for the second time, but they may be revived a third time.

In recent years, the world has seen the handiwork of government or pro-government death squads in various countries.

A recent report of Amnesty International attributed the mysterious deaths of thousands of Indonesians to government para-troops.

For some years, Indonesians suspected of being criminals were being abducted and killed or gunned down right in their homes. Hardly anybody could then tell who were the perpetrators of the crimes.

For some time before the last presidential election in El Salvador, the population of that Central American country had been terrorized by right-wing death squads, whose leaders were presumed to be the land-owning, conservative leaders from the extreme right of the political spectrum.

The death squads were politically motivated and their work doomed the aspirations of Roberto D'Aubuisson.

There had also been government death squads in Argentina during the military regime. Most of the approximately 8,000 victims were young activists. They are now called the *desaparecidos*. Now, it appears that President Raul Alfonsin is determined to prosecute the top military leaders who are being held responsible for the massacres.

There had also been massacres in Chile shortly after Salvador Allende Gossens was elected in 1970 and after his death, when the military took over the government. People had to locate their dead relatives in funeral parlors jammed with corpses.

As many as 300,000 people believed to be enemies of the regime were killed by the death squads of

Idi Amin from the time he assumed power in 1970 until his expulsion in 1979.

The most ruthless were the death squads unleashed by the Khmer Rouge in Kampuchea starting 1975. About a million people died by firing squad or by enforced hardships.

We do not expect those things to happen in this country. But a warning has to be made because there are a number of indications of death-squad-like activities in the countryside.

Some families are being mysteriously massacred, some activist newsmen have been mysteriously slain; there have been many complaints and many killings remain unsolved. While the hand of the sparrow units cannot be discounted outright, there is room for theorizing that military and paramilitary forces are shortcutting the law.

That is a theory that should be pursued, because if it were to be discarded the authorities might not be able to solve the crimes.

Except in the case of the Indonesian death squads, those of all others were politically motivated. That pattern has to be noted in order to nip the problem at the bud.

More than poverty and the desire to fight crime, partisan political feelings provide the incentive for death-squad activities.

It is said that the principal purpose of the much-publicized "El Diablo Crime Busters" is to rid the Armed Forces of "scalawags." If that is the purpose, how does the organization propose to achieve it?

What is the necessity of forming an organization with that objective within the Armed Forces, which are undoubtedly law enforcers?

CSO: 4200/204

NPA STEPS UP LIQUIDATION SQUAD ACTIVITY

Davao City MINDANAO TIMES in English 13 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] The NPA liquidation squads conducting urban guerilla warfare in the city killed six militiamen, a police lieutenant and patrolman and a PC sergeant and two civilians since Monday, this week.

P/Lt. Caputol was killed while walking home from Panacan by three men. Sgt. Celso Ramos of the Metrodiscom Special Action Unit and Patm. Napoleon Mabandos were killed by two men at Bongoyan Beach Wednesday afternoon.

The militiamen were killed separately in different parts of the city. Two ICHDF men of Brgy. Agdao were killed last Monday night during the height of the transport strike. ICHDF Ramon Galo was killed by two youths at Sitio Kubkub, Buhangin Wednesday afternoon. His assailants shot him in the head, slashed his throat and cut off his left ear.

Shot by two unidentified persons along the corner of P. Reyes and Rizal streets Thursday dawn was one Francisco Tanodra, 39, a marine radio operator and resident of Ecoland subdivision.

Police investigators said that Tanodra was with friends drinking at a beer house when he was approached by two armed men and forcibly pushed out. He was shot and left by the assailants

by the sidewalk. The police said that the victims got entangled in a land feud.

At San Juan Village, Agdao, a certain Benjamin Fernandez, 46, was shot by three persons in their twenties at nine o'clock Thursday morning. The assailants fled after hitting Fernandez on the head and different parts of the body with .45 caliber pistols. Motive for the killing has not been established by the police.

Brig. Gen. Jaime Echeverria, commanding general of the Regional Unified Command called for a command conference today to discuss measures to protect the militiamen and their deployment effectivity.

Meanwhile, The Metrodiscom fielded homicide probers to investigate the motive behind the killings and establish the identities of the killers.

BALANCING OF TRADE SOUGHT WITH PRC

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 29 Oct 84 p 22

[Text]

The balancing of trade between the Philippines and China loomed large as bilateral trade between the two Asian neighbors is targetted to reach \$2 billion in 1986.

The People's Republic of China has a 100-million dollars trade surplus with the Philippines. China has to buy more goods from the Philippines to erase this surplus.

China's trade surplus with the Philippines comes mainly from its oil exports to this country.

China is supplying the Philippines, with at

least 4.5 million barrels of oil in 1984 under an agreement signed by the Philippine National Oil company and the China National Chemicals Import and Export (Sinochem) early this year.

Current RP-China trade has reached 500 million dollars following an agreement between the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos and Chinese officials in January this year at Beijing.

"We would like to balance this trade, and therefore we hope that the People's Republic of China will see what pro-

ducts it can purchase from US," President Marcos told visiting journalists.

China's trade with its trading partners, including the Philippines, United States, Japan and the European Community, has been on the rise following the launching of the "four modernizations" program under the current Chinese leadership.

The program calls for rapid advances in agriculture, industry, science and technology and defense which would need importation of foreign technology and equipment.

CSO: 4200/193

REVENUE OFFICIAL: MULTINATIONALS' PULLOUT WELCOME

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 29 Oct 84 p 22

[Article by Jesus Bigornia: "Multinationals' Pullout is Welcome"]

[Text] **R**EVENUE officials who know their business "call" multinationals' bluff to pull out of Manila before the end of this year. "Good riddance," is Revenue Deputy Commissioner Tomas Toledo's retort to a report on the impending pullout. "The multinationals brought no palpable investment into this country. On the contrary, they drew heavily on locally available investment capital at the expense of established Philippine industries. Moreover, whatever profits they made they repatriated to their head offices abroad." Business quarters concurs with the Toledo view.

* * *
Of equal relevance is the claim that departure of the multinationals would pull out one more thorn from the side of the Marcos administration. Object of popular protests, even while actively criticizing the President's economic policies, the multinationals are blamed by radical elements here for much of the country's economic difficulties. Withdrawal of tax exemption privileges, which triggered the withdrawal move, puts them on par with local industries and, therefore, welcome news to domestic enterprises.

CSO: 4200/193

BRIEFS

140 'SALVAGED' BY COMMUNISTS--Naga City--Some 140 civilians have been "salvaged" allegedly by communist terrorists in Camarines Sur, indicating that the terrorists have become the No 1 threat to peace and order in the Bicol region. This was revealed by Col Job A. Mayo, Camarines Sur PC-INP commander, during the recent provincial peace and order council meeting held in Pili upon call of Governor Felix A. Fuentebella. While the actual strength of the communist band in Camarines Sur, the biggest province in the Bicol region, has been estimated at around 200 only, "the rebels have caused no small degree of economic dislocation to the detriment of the peaceful citizens," Mayo said. [Text] [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 31 Oct 84 p 10]

NPA CONFESSEE DENIES EXTORTION--Lopez, Quezon--A confessed follower of the New People's Army (NPA) said yesterday that the NPAs have not been engaged in extortion activities in his barrio, contrary to military charges. "Ka Pedro" tossed the charges back to the military in a conference with foreign and local media men at an undisclosed house in this town. Ka Pedro said NPA men do not force their weight around the residents if they have nothing to give them. "Samantala sila (military), apat na beses na nilang binabalikbalikan ang aso ko, kaya napilitan na akong ibigay na lang ito sa kanila," (However, they (military men) have raced back and forth to my house until I was forced to give them my dog.), he said. Earlier, an intelligence officer of the 3rd Infantry Brigade based in Calauag town told newsmen that the NPAs have been forcibly collecting money or the equivalent of 30 to 50 percent share from coconut farmers of what is supposed to be due their landlords. Capt. Gregorio Fajardo said the farmers have initially complained before the authorities about the "collection" but refused to prosecute them for fear of NPA reprisal. Col. Wilfredo F. Laganzo, brigades deputy commander, said the rebels were engaged in cattle-rustling and illegal logging. [Text] [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 30 Oct 84 p 8]

CSO: 4200/193

BIRABHONGSE AMBASSADOR TO UN PROFILED

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 28 Oct 84 p 10

[Text]

IT WAS well past midnight, and Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila was asleep. At 00.40 am of Oct 23, he received a trunk-call from New York. "Minister, congratulations. We win," said a gentleman in crisp and clear tones from the other side of the world. Unmistakably, the person was M.L. Birabhongse Kasemsri, Thai ambassador to the United Nations, who passed down the long-awaited news. Siddhi then said: "You have done a very good job."

In New York, as soon as Thailand was elected one of the ten non-permanent members of the UN Security Council, M.L. Birabhongse said that everybody, from the foreign minister down, was responsible for the triumph that day. Well, that was an understatement. In fact, a senior Foreign Ministry official, who has just come back from New York after having spent most of his time during the past few months lobbying with him before the secret ballots were cast last week, hailed M.L. Birabhongse for his painstaking efforts of spending numerous hours talking to

UN representatives from around the world.

"He is a real versatile diplomat with good solid experience and education background," the official said.

Those who have come to know him, according to an ASEAN diplomat, admire him. "No doubt, he is very popular, he gains the same recognition like the former Singapore's ambassador to UN Dr Tommy Koh," the diplomat said.

The campaign to win the prestigious Security Council seat started early in May, when Siddhi announced Thailand's bid for the position left vacant by Pakistan. It was a good timing because Thailand was also playing host to the Bangkok meeting of UN Council for Namibia, which Paul Luzaka from Zambia, President of the current UN General Assembly, also chaired.

M.L. Birabhongse flew back from New York to participate in the meeting which concluded with a strong condemnation of the apartheid policy of South African government. "At that meeting, we declared to the African countries that we stood on their side," a

Foreign Ministry official said.

It was the first time that the majority of the African leaders gathered in Bangkok during the Namibian conference, and they had also the opportunity to get to grips with Thailand's reality and its foreign policy's philosophy. "At the moment, we are under-represented in Africa, it was a good time to talk to them and explain our position," the official said. M.L. Birabhongse spent most of his time in Bangkok talking with those African leaders and confirmed Thailand's strong opposition towards the apartheid government of Pretoria and the illegal occupation of its troops in Namibia. "That won him a lot of admiration from the third world African nations," the official added.

The campaign continued to move on to New York and kept gathering momentum as the 39th UN session was drawing near. Before he left for New York, he told the Press that Thailand had a very good chance to win the seat. He was not boasting.

At the UN Headquarters, M.L. Birabhongse wasted no time in contacting UN representatives from Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe

and other major powers. While the lobbying in New York continued, Siddhi ordered his special envoys comprising three senior Foreign

Ministry officials to visit country-by-country, western and southern parts of African countries to make sure that Thailand's position was clearly understood. At the same time, Siddhi himself, his deputy Prapass Limpabhandu and Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Asa Sarasin also embarked on a tour of Latin America, the Caribbean, North Africa and Gulf areas, India and Soviet Union together with assistance of Thai ambassadors who were dispatched to countries, where knowledge of Thailand was marginal.

One senior Foreign Ministry official recalled the days when he was with M.L. Birabhongse: whenever the ambassador called on any UN representatives he would take at least two secretaries with him. "There is a good reason to approach these UN people with two secretaries. You see, the Security Council seat required a great deal of responsibility and a big staff. We want to show that we have enough people here at our mission to handle this prestigious job."

"And it worked," the official said.

He also said the president of UNGA, Paul Luzaka was very fond of the Thai ambassador. He recalled the meeting between M.L. Birabhongse and Luzaka. "Well, Birabhongse visited Luzaka and handed him a framed picture of him and Their Majesties the King and Queen during his stay in Thailand.

Luzaka was definitely pleased," the official said.

As an avid skier, the 49-year-old career diplomat spends most of his vacation time in some of the winter resorts either in Vermont or New Jersey. During his tenure of office at the Department of International Organization, one of his colleagues called him "a sports nut." He also plays ping pong and football.

The other colleague also said that he was certainly bright and his English was excellent.

That his English is good should not be surprising at all, since he had most of his higher education overseas. He graduated from Oxford University with BA Hons (Jurisprudence) and MA (Jurisprudence). The young Birabhongse furthered his education at Tuft University, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and received a doctorate degree in international law.

As soon as he graduated from the US, he entered the foreign service serving first as a second secretary, SEATO Division, Department of International Organization in 1964. Three years later, he was working for the former foreign minister Thanat Khoman as his secretary. Then in 1971, he was promoted to the post of first secretary in the Office of Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

He went to New York for his first overseas assignment in 1972 working as the first secretary to the Thai Permanent Mission to the UN. With his exceptional ability and skill he served the same

position for the second term. In 1974, he worked as a counsellor and deputy permanent representative.

M.L. Birabhongse later returned to Thailand to serve as director general of Department of International Organization. In 1980, he became the Thai ambassador to UN, after a five-year stint in Bangkok. He is now serving his second term as the Thai ambassador to UN.

M.L. Birabhongse was born September 24, 1935, in Bangkok and married to M.R. Rampaipha with three children.

DR SNOH INTERVIEWED ON LONG TERM PLANNING

Bangkok BUSINESS IN THAILAND in English Oct 84 pp 28-34

[Text] The opening of the Thailand Research Development Institute aims at long term economic planning. NESDB Secretary-General Snoh Unakul explains the programme in an exclusive BIT interview.

T rue long term economic planning to eliminate some of the previous hit and miss elements from Thailand's future economic development becomes a reality when the Thailand Research Development Institute (TDRI) officially starts operations on November 1 1984. So reports Thailand's foremost economics expert, Dr Snoh Unakul, secretary-general of the National Economic & Social Development Board (NESDB).

Funded by a generous donation of some C\$5 million from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) it is headed by Professor Dr Anat Arbhabhirama, of AIT fame and former Minister of Agriculture, who will become the first President and full-time Chief Executive. Backed up by a team of the top economic brains trust of Thailand, the TDRI will get off to a promising start when the institute officially opens its doors for business in November.

"Dr Anat is now in the transition stage from fulfilling his existing obligations to developing the institute into a really useful think

tank for our economy, our society", said Dr Snoh. The statement was made during a recent interview by BIT to seek his opinions on the repeal of the 18% credit ceiling restrictions and its effect on the nation's economic performance.

"We need more rational thinking, thinking taking the broad and long term view. So that we know that we are heading in the right direction — so that we know we have enough time to prepare to get things done and not to wait until the problems hit us. Then we may start to hit and miss in a last minute attempt to rectify a given situation as we sometimes did in times past," he said.

"Because the work of the institute will be beneficial to all of us, I am really hoping that other sectors of the economy — the business and foreign communities — will give the TDRI their full support," he said. "Thailand has long been regarded as a good place for investment by foreign interests because of the inherent basic stability of the country's economy.

"Now, with the new TDRI think tank to help work out Thai-

land's long term economic planning on thoroughly well thought out strategies — evolved before the event — this can only serve to enhance our international standing as a nation with a penchant for planned economic stability in the future," Dr Snoh added.

This basic inclination for a sensible safety first approach as a nation to things economic comes out loud and clear in the following answers by Dr Snoh to questions regarding Thailand's economic good health, when interviewed by BIT.

Is the improved "good health" of the nation's economic situation

the basis for last week's repeal of the 18% credit growth restrictions?

Well, partly, yes, because of the effect of the imposition of the 18% credit restrictions (in containing the deficit). But that's not the only reason. There have been certain practical problems involved in the publication guidelines issued through the banks, which have given rise to certain misunderstandings of the role of the monetary authorities and its effect on general business conditions, in particular small and medium businesses.

There have been attempts to clarify the wordings in the instructions several times, but the problems continued to remain as to the interpretation of the various wordings. Though it was thought that it was necessary to remove these misunderstandings and at the same maintain the prudent monetary policy and guidelines to prevent excessive credit expansion within the economy. It was pru-

dent that the credit growth controls continue, but via other means within the powers of the Central Bank.

"What will these "means" be?

Well, the means being developed would be more of a moral solution. Of course, the Central Bank can always talk to the commercial banks, giving internal guidelines as those steps which the commercial banks should take. But, of course, this has to be re-inforced by other means.

I believe the Central Bank is considering the activation of open market operations and various credit window guidelines and, of course, the Central Bank has other legislative powers to enforce other alternatives to complicated credit proceedings' restrictions. But it is up to the Central Bank to consider the appropriate steps to be taken and we have confidence that the Central Bank is best equipped to handle these particular situations.

Can they do this without referring to Parliament?

Yes, of course. It is very clear from the Central Bank and Commercial Bank Acts. It all comes within the powers of the Central Bank as well as the Ministry of Finance.

Does the NESDB Committee, of which you are a member, concur in these actions?

There is no need for the NESDB to say anything. It is strictly the business of the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank.

Would they have preferred to maintain the 18% restriction?

The Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank reached the conclusion that the 18% credit ceiling restrictions had served their purpose and that it was time that alternative means be implemented, while still maintaining prudent monetary policies, of course.

Is there anything else you would like to say? Has it taught a bit of self-discipline in the realms of business?

I think that, looking at it from a long term policy, it demands economic and business discipline. You have to grow all the time. The move developed the economy, the more self-disciplined business practices must become. You have to adapt. So this is just a part of the growing up process and you have to explain it by saying that it is a beneficial by-product of this measure.

On the short and long term impacts on the economy from the relaxation of the credit controls? Is there any further comment you would like to make?

No. But, if you abolish the qualitative 18% guidelines, but then replace them with more subtle means, perhaps assequally effective measures, then you maintain the economic stability and conditions--at the same time spending more time and energy on more constructive purposes of building up the economy. To that extent you don't have to waste so much time defending something about which it is very difficult to reach a common understanding.

If you had a free hand, how would you organise the Thai economic scene? Or, what steps would you advise the government to take to maintain a prosperous Thailand?

The question is rather large and certainly no one can have a free

hand running the economy. But you may have a free hand in putting over your point of view and that we have been trying to do all the time. We are going to offer our considered advice and this has been more or less incorporated in the Fifth 5 Year Plan. It is also most certainly a basis for the operation of the Sixth 5 Year Plan.

Indeed, in brief, we certainly recommend that the maintenance of fundamental financial integrity,

the financial stability of the country, is still the all-important and foremost priority.

We have been co-operating with the monetary and fiscal authorities for the last few years in order to achieve just that. Because achievement alone is not enough. We have to consider all the costs involved. This, by comparing our position with alternative situations where things generally get out of control, as is happening in so

many countries around the world and with the likelihood of rather serious international financial repercussions should there be major loan defaults by the major debtor countries in the world. There could be even greater international economic and financial repercussions. So it is better for us to stay on the safe side and to pay for relatively smaller costs and, thus, save ourselves from future catastrophe.

For that reason I think the policy has been implemented and can be adapted to change. The whole thing is dynamic, although it is a pity to raise problems here and there all the time. But those are not all the points involved. Problems are bound to occur in really fast changing circumstances — but that is a very natural phenomenon. The main fundamental is that we move in the right direction.

We would also most certainly state that the economic health of the country will be very much dependent on our competitive position in the world because Thailand is a very potent market economy. The fact cannot be denied that, whatever happens in the world, must also affect us. Playing our proper role in the world community is vital to our domestic well-being and our ability to compete in the export market in what has now become a very tough situation in the face of the declining growth potential of world trade.

However, some successful, opportunist countries in Southeast Asia still manage to improve on their world export market shares and utilise their export incomes to generate more jobs and to increase

investment and technical innovations within a national economy. Now, we must ensure that we, too, are a continuing part of this small group of dynamic economic-export growth countries in the world that are now centred in the Asia Pacific region.

We are learning from this experience. We are trying to improve our national economic prospects within our context. But, at the

same time, we are not going willy-nilly towards export expansion. We must also make use of our more balanced domestic economic structure in order to support ourselves through diversification of the economy. To provide a sufficiently diverse internal economic structure that will give us a kind of economic insurance umbrella to protect the economic health of the country in today's very uncertain world conditions. This is the basic thrust that we have been trying to project. But, having said that about the policy thrust, the main thing you have to ensure is to translate those policy thrusts into actions.

There have been complaints that there have been a lot too many policies, but very little action. But, actually, if one looks more carefully into what the big stakes involve, sometimes seemingly unrelated news items appear side by side which--if one is aware of the underlying thrust--two and two can easily be put together in this jig-saw to see that a lot of things are happening. To see that a lot of actions have, in fact, been taken, both to prevent the negative from worsening and, too, to build up opportunities for the future.

For example, in the last few days, one could pick up the business pages of the daily newspaper and learn about the signing of the agreements on potash--first with the Duval Corporation, followed by Agrico and later with Amax. This was a significant event. These negotiations had been going on for four years. Now the solution has been found to all the underlying problems and the agreement is now a decided fact.

Nevertheless, during the past four years there were many complaints about the apparent delay in these transactions. Now we have solved them--but no one appreciates that this action has been realised. No one sees this as action. Similarly, there are a number of negotiations going on--activities in the oil and gas business, where a lot of action has been taken. Where, when things were not finalised they received much publicity. But, once the action at issue becomes an accomplished fact, becomes finalised, the world at large doesn't seem to read into the significance of these actions.

We can go on citing quite a number of events which signify actions and decisions. But that is probably the weakness of our kind of society, in that we are rather polite and sometimes self-critical--which is good and healthy. Society has to become self-critical in order to maintain balance and keep perspective. But, at the same time, we are very modest. We don't talk about anyone who says something about achievement and, if he does, he is looked down on as being unrealistic and, perhaps, rather boastful.

However, I think just to keep a good balance and a good perspective one has to look at the situation realistically. A number of achievements are being aired because there can be more and better. That's for sure. Everybody has to agree on that. No one would be satisfied that all the matters now proceeding are ideal. There are lots of shortcomings and these shortcomings invite improvements and further hard work in the future to overcome the problems involved. That's just one of the facts of life.

The life of the individual. The life of a nation. We all have to pay realistically through a series of trials and errors and overcome them as best we can. Keeping all our options open at all times so that we may take advantage of our

opportunities as they come along and not to miss out by exaggerating the problems involved. That way many good opportunities are lost.

You have recently visited the Southern Provinces where the economic situation has deteriorated. What do you see as the main problems facing the south and how do you think those problems can be solved?

Well, to begin with, the south is basically rich in natural and human resources as well having a fortunate geographical location. Problems in the south in the past, and sometimes persistently today, can be covered by perhaps two main factors. One is the key to security of life and property of individuals. That was a major problem for the south for the past several years. But, in the past two or three years, the situation on that score has improved markedly and has made a great difference because it has led to the other two factors.

The second factor has been the major problem — that is capital flight from the south, in spite of an economic surplus being generated there from rich natural resources i.e., natural rubber, tin and oil palm. The problem is that the surpluses have been concentrated in fewer hands. Thus people tend to invest their money outside of the south — mainly in Bangkok — because of the first problem already cited, security of life and property.

However, with the improvement of security there has been a rechanneling of funds back to the south and a greater part of the capital accrued remaining in the south for reinvestment in the economic progress now taking place

there. That has, in fact, been the second problem as well as the second benefit after problem one had moderated — security.

The first problem is that the government itself has been taxing the southern region but, at the same time, not been reinvesting enough resources in terms of development projects in the south.

For these good reasons, the development plan for the south recommends that the development projects be increased and that the south receive higher priority in terms of allocation of development resources and, therefore, that we channel a greater amount of resources into the building up of the necessary infrastructure facilities in the south, starting from road work improvement.

Three years ago the south was almost isolated from the rest of the country because it was solely dependent on the railway. Now

the southern road system has been vastly improved and the next step will be to improve sea transport, coastal transport as well as deepen sea ports. The south has a number of ports coming into existence. And the question now is no longer the lack of confidence that these ports will become a reality--as was previously the case because of broken promises. Now the problem is how to fully utilise these new facilities and the basic infrastructure facilities that are being created in the south.

Previously arrangements of priorities in development projects and the allocation of development resources to the south would have been a problem. But now we are better adapted to cope with this sort of situation and to rectify it. Security, investment of economic surplus within the region and the re-allocation of public sector development resources into the south are the three basic factors now in play.

Of course, the south is still faced with short term and cyclical fluctuations of commodity prices--rubber, tin and increasingly oil palm--similar to the Malaysian situation--because the market conditions of these basic commodities are extremely volatile and boost or depress the southern economy accordingly.

In the short term there is no way out yet for the south to gain from the wider fluctuations of commodity prices. But, hopefully, in the long term the southern economy will be strong enough and more diversified to sustain a more balanced situation.

The fisheries, deep sea fisheries, coastal and fresh water fisheries--all these technologies will have to be further developed. Plus the building up of infrastructure and port facilities, more industrialisation and energy development programmes and, of course, social infrastructure. All will become ever more important for the south.

But, however more diversified, as far as we can see the south cannot become completely insulated from commodity price fluctuations--particularly in rubber, tin and palm oil. Because the south continues to expand particularly in natural rubber reactivation programmes and in a rather rapid expansion of palm oil production.

One has to accept the fact commodity products will always be a major factor in the southern economy, but hope that other developments now being undertaken will eventually do much to moderate the impact of these rather violent commodity price fluctuations in the future.

Thank you, Dr Snoh.

CSO: 4200/188

TAIWAN REJECTS THAI MAIZE SHIPMENT

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 25 Oct 84 p 22

[Text]

EXPORTERS' attempt to resume maize trade with Taiwan after two years of suspension suffered a major setback yesterday as the Taiwanese government rejected a shipment of 35,000 tons because the crop contained a high level of cancer-causing chemical, aflatoxin.

The refusal was ordered by Economic Minister Hsu Li-Teh Tuesday after tests showed 23,000 tons of Thai maize stored in the port of Taichung in central Taiwan and 12,000 tons in the southern port of Kaohsiung contained a high level of aflatoxin, according to an AP report.

It quoted Economic Ministry officials as saying that the maize will either be returned to Thailand or burned.

Exporters early this month signed an agreement to sell 49,000 tons worth US\$6.1 million. Three firms, Bangkok Drying and Silo Co Ltd, Laem Thong Corp Ltd, and Hong Yiah Seng Co Ltd later won a bidding for the supply.

The maize arrived in Taiwan last week and is part of a shipment of 49,000 tons. It is the first such shipment since the government lifted a two-year ban on imports of Thai maize on October 2 because of high aflatoxin content.

Officials said the ban was lifted after tests had shown aflatoxin in

the Thai grain had been reduced to within a safety level.

The increase of the chemical content, according to the officials, was probably due to poor storage on ships.

The officials said the rest of the shipments will be tested again to determine the level of the carcinogen. Taiwan imports some three million tons of maize annually, most of them from the United States.

The Thai exporters had hoped that the shipment would pave the way for normalised maize trade which, in the past, amounted to 200,000 tons annually.

The Thai Maize and Produce Traders Association and the Board of Trade were hoping that some orders for 200,000-300,000 tons would be placed shortly after the first shipment passed the tests.

Now that the shipment has been rejected there are doubts again whether Thai maize will be accepted, particularly the shipment remaining under the agreement.

The three firms are expected to suffer heavy losses if the grain was burned. President of the association, Smarn Ophaswongse has said that future purchase by Taiwan depended on the first shipment in which the best quality was picked.

He was not available for comment yesterday.

POTASH CONCESSIONS GRANTED

Bangkok BUSINESS IN THAILAND in English Oct 84 p 11

[Text] After several years of negotiations the Thai government and foreign mining companies have finally reached agreement for the development of potash in the northeast.

Concessions have been granted to two groups. The consortium of Agrico Chemical of the United States and Thai Central Chemical will develop a 2,233-square-kilometer area in Udon Thani Province. Thai Potash Company, of which Duval Corp of the United States, CRA Exploration Pty of Australia and Siam Cement Company are members, received rights to a 3,500-square-kilometer area in the provinces of Khon Kaen and Maha Sarakham.

The major points of the agreements include; a US\$5 million bonus for the government upon signing, 7% royalty, the establishment of a US\$4.46 million educational scholarship fund, concession lifetime of 25 years and 10% government share in each company.

With an estimated 270 million ton reserve the government hopes to generate 2,000 to

3,000 million baht in export earnings, predominantly in the regional market. Presently, 70 to 80 million baht must be spent annually on potash imports mostly for fertilizer. The northeast potash is of carnallite grade, a quality comparable to that produced in the Soviet Union and Canada, the world's largest exporters.

Meanwhile, the government's pilot project mine in Bamned Narong in Chaiyaphum Province has run into trouble. The World Bank supported project was scheduled to begin production in 1983, but flooding problems have caused a postponement to late 1984 at the earliest.

IMPORT CREDIT CONTROLS EXTENDED

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 25 Oct 84 p 22

[Text] THE Bank of Thailand yesterday extended until next April the controls on commercial bank credits for imports, which is due to expire at the end of November, to further alleviate trade deficit and balance-of-payments problems.

However, the restrictions on import L/Cs will exclude oil and oil products, imports by government units and state enterprises such as military hardware, raw materials and equipment for export industries, and those for projects with promotional privileges from the Board of Investment, according to spokeswoman Mrs Prapapim Sakuntabhaya.

She pointed out that the commercial bank credit controls imposed since last November had shown satisfactory results due to good cooperation from banks. The controls had partly resolved trade deficit and balance-of-payments problems.

"But the controls are still necessary to bring more stability to the country's economy under the present world economic circumstances," she said.

The controls were designed to reduce imports of luxury and non-essential goods. Mrs Prapapim said that import L/Cs in the next six months should be at the same level as the previous six months or during May to October.

She described the control measures as effective in curtailing import growth which rose only 5% in September.

"But there is a relaxation for four groups of products including oil and oil products. Commercial banks will maintain strict control of luxury and non-essential goods," she said.

L/Cs opened by commercial banks during last November until the end of last month

amounted to US\$4,300 million, representing 81% of the total allowed for the whole period at US\$5,300 million, she said.

After the measures were introduced, imports dropped 8.5% from the same period of last year. The value of L/Cs in average per month was US\$398 million, down from US\$435 million earlier.

During May to September a total of US\$1,954 million worth of L/Cs were opened, representing a monthly average of US\$391 million, down 13.8% from US\$454 million per month in the same period of last year.

Mrs Prapapim said that there was increase in import of raw materials, intermediate products while decline was seen in import L/Cs

for food, beverage and tobacco.

The government wants to curtail import growth this year at 2%. However, imports of consumer goods rose 10.5%, while raw materials and capital goods showed 6% increase. Import slowdown was seen in gems and electrical appliances.

Mrs Prapapim said that the central bank expects to cut down import value during the next six months by 3,500 million baht.

Thailand last year suffered a record trade deficit of 89,000 million baht, when imports soared to a high level. During the first nine months of this year, total imports were valued at 178,500 million baht while exports amounted to 126,900 million baht.

The central bank predicted that trade deficit for this year will be about 70,000 million baht. The government wants annual export growth at 15% to alleviate trade and current account deficits.

The country expects to have slight surplus in the balance of payments this year.

Other measures to slow down imports of luxury and non-essential goods included an increase of surtax and import duties.

Bankers yesterday welcomed the central bank's relaxation for the four groups of products.

POLICE SALARY HIKE PLANNED

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 30 Oct 84 p 3

[Text] THE POLICE Department is working out a new pay scale for commissioned and non-commissioned policemen so that it will be on the same level as those of military officials and civil servants, an informed source said yesterday.

The source said the new scale, if approved by the Interior Ministry and Parliament, would increase the salaries of all levels of policemen and give them a better chance for the annual promotion.

Under the new scale, the starting salary of non-commissioned policemen, except for police private, will increase from the present 1,470 baht per month to 1,545 baht while the highest salary for a sergeant major (special) will be raised from 4,425 baht to 5,745 baht.

The range of promotion will also be wider to enable policemen to receive higher pay increases in a shorter period of time, the source said.

The new scale, the source said, would also set the maximum salaries for a sub-lieutenant at 3,115 baht, a lieutenant at 3,745 baht, a captain at 5,745 baht, a major at 7,285 baht, a lieutenant colonel at 9,385 baht, a colonel at 12,535 baht, a major gen-

eral at 15,575 baht, a lieutenant general at 16,975 baht and a general or the police director general at 19,325 baht.

The present highest scale for a general is 18,515 baht.

Commander of the Personnel Division, Pol Maj Gen Thawat Thappothayarn, said the adjustment of salary scale would be advantageous to junior policemen while higher chances for promotion would be given to commissioned policemen from the level of captain on up.

He said the salary scale of police officers

from the level of colonel on up would slightly change but those in charge of operations would be entitled to better benefits.

The source, meanwhile, said the Police Department is trying to wrap up the new scale as soon as possible so that it can be

submitted to the Interior Ministry and later Parliament for its approval.

The source said the Police Department would try to push for an implementation of the new scale by next February. The new parliamentary session is, however, scheduled to open next April 25.

STATUS OF KMT VILLAGERS

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 31 Oct 84 p 4

[Article by William Kazer]

[Text]

MAE SALONG, Thailand — "Two plus two is four," chants the class in unison. "Four plus four is eight."

The primary school mathematics lesson might be taught almost anywhere without controversy. But in this remote mountain village in Northern Thailand it is given in Mandarin and that is a score point with authorities in Bangkok.

The students are children or grandchildren of Nationalist Chinese soldiers and their wives who retreated into the jungles of Burma and later Thailand after the communists took over China in 1949.

Thailand regarded the remnants of the anti-communist Kuomintang (KMT) or Nationalist Party army as a bulwark against its own insurgent groups. It let them settle, guns and all, along the northern border near Burma and Laos.

They were given considerable autonomy but the government has come under pressure to assert its authority in the border villages and move against what one senior Thai official called a "state within a state."

In June, the Bangkok Government began a campaign to introduce Thai language and customs to the villages. In the four months since that policy went into effect, life has changed at Mae Salong, a village of about 3,000 inhabitants about 880 km (550 miles) north of Bangkok.

Although Thai language courses had been taught before, most students preferred to study Chinese.

Children still study Chinese, using textbooks supplied by Taiwan. But the classes are now held before or after regular school hours when the instruction is in Thai.

More teachers have been sent to the village, increasing the Thai staff from three to 16, and the new ways are slowly being accepted.

"We have to accept the changes," says

Huang Pai-sheng, director of the Chinese language school. "We want to stay here."

Many of the people at Mae Salong do not speak Thai and some still are not Thai citizens. But the village has been their home since 1961 when they crossed over from Burma.

Taiwan provides aid to the village, some of it in scholarships for students who wish to study beyond the village school. According to one graduate, 19 of 55 students in his class won scholarships to study in Taiwan and others financed their own studies there.

Thailand has frequently said it planned to disarm the troops, but when I visited the camp a handful of armed guards kept a watchful eye on the home of Commander Lei Yu-tien, Mae Salong's 68-year-old military leader.

Lei declined to reveal how many soldiers he commanded. But he insisted they were necessary, saying: "The border is a wild area."

He says small bands of rebels still carry out occasional sabotage raids along the border. —
Reuter

JUTE, KENAF EXPORT BAN UPSETS JAPANESE FELDSPAR PLANT

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 2 Nov 84 p 17

[Text]

JAPANESE importers of jute products are expected to file a protest letter with the Commerce Ministry and the Board of Trade of Thailand against a recent decision of the Council of Economic Ministers to ban jute and kenaf exports which they believe was chiefly designed to protect Thai firms, well-informed trade sources said yesterday.

They also vowed that Japanese jute importers will not buy the produce from Thailand in the future if this issue is not cleared.

A 10-member team of the Japan Jute Products Import Council led by Mr K. Naka was in Bangkok early this week and met with local jute and kenaf exporters. At one point, they complained that the ban was very untimely because jute products they had ordered were about to be shipped.

They also pointed out that not only had they not received the produce, but lost the market as well, the sources said.

They Japanese are brokers and they would likely be affected. The sources said the Japanese will file a protest letter with the ministry and the BoT accusing the Thai government of supporting local exporters in "cheating" them.

One source said the Japanese cautioned that if this problem remains unsolved, they will not buy Thai jute and kenaf in the future. Moreover, they will not fulfill the targets set for many products to be bought by Japan annually. "They said that the targets are meaningless."

The sources said that there were many L/Cs from Japan for jute products and some of them were already loaded onto ships at Klong Toey Port. However, the ban effectively halted all exports.

"They also said that they did not care about

the ban. But they want to know whether Thailand would tolerate transactions in this manner," the sources said.

Meanwhile, the Thai Jute Association told *The Nation* yesterday that Japan buys just small quantities of jute products and it just acts as brokers for other countries. "It is natural for people who faced disadvantages to holler for fairness. We have to protect our country's interests when jute exports face an unfavourable situation," said a top executive.

When asked what exporters will do when they have already cashed the export L/Cs through packing credit, President of the association, Mr Sukit Wanglee said the money would be refunded with interest.

"There should not be any problem because the ban was adopted in accordance with government policy. But when shipments have received customs clearance I believe that the government would not summon back those vessels," he pointed out.

Sukit said stocks of jute left are not large and if they are exported, there would not be enough for local mills, which will face more problems if the market turns to plastic products. Once that happens, it will be difficult for the market to return to jute products.

Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Kosol Krairiksh said that he is not concerned about Japanese protest when Thailand does not have the products even for local consumption.

"This is a practice adopted by many countries. When we have plenty of jute products, the Japanese were not interested in buying. They have taken advantages of us for a long time, and now they are experiencing a reverse situation," the minister declared.

One source said executives of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Bangkok are meeting with their counterparts at the BoT today and this issue might be raised as well.

THAILAND

BRIEFS

TIN PRODUCTION CUT 25 PERCENT--The Offshore Mining Organization announced yesterday that it has decided to cut down production of tin ore by 25% because tin price in the world market remains in a slump. The state enterprise said that it still has 40,000-50,000 piculs of tin ore stored at the Thailand Smelting and Refining Co Ltd in Phuket Province and if production is not curtailed, the stocks will keep piling up. OMO Managing Director Phipat Bromabala said he fully agrees with Industry Minister Ob Vasuratna to temporarily suspend the issuance of any exclusive prospecting licence and concession for tin mining so that there will be no additional output. Phipat said that local tin royalty is still high at 2,000 baht per picul, compared to about 400 baht charged by Malaysia. The high royalty has kept mining costs at a high level, he said. "We don't have to have the same rate as Malaysia, but the miners would survive current financial hardships while there would be less incentives for smuggling of tin ore for sale in neighbouring countries if local royalty is lowered," Phipat said. [Text] [Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 2 Nov 84 p 19]

CSO: 4200/188

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

BRIEFS

VIETNAMESE GUERRILLAS ACTIONS--Here is a report from Vietnam: On 16 October 1984, the guerrillas of the Central Highlands of Vietnam attacked the Le Duan Vietnamese soldiers east of Route 19 in (Doc Ku) commune, (Phnum Pah) District, killing two, wounding one, and destroying a C-25 radio set. The guerrillas attacked the Le Duan Vietnamese soldiers at (Tonle Pat) west of the Ho Chi Minh trail on 19 October, killing one, and seizing an AK. The guerrillas attacked the Le Duan Vietnamese soldiers north of (Hu Nguen) in (Phnum Thom) District, on 21 October, killing two, wounding three, and seizing an AR-15 and a map. They attacked the Le Duan Vietnamese soldiers east of (O Laom), (Phnum Thom) District, on 27 October, killing two, wounding one, and seizing three canteens and two pairs of binoculars. In sum, the guerrillas of the Central Highlands of Vietnam killed or wounded 13 Le Duan Vietnamese soldiers, destroyed a C-25 radio set, and seized 3 guns and some war materiel. [Text] [(Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 27 Nov 84]

QUANG NAM-DANANG CONSCRIPTION--Dai Loc District, Quang Nam-Danang Province, recently held a conference to review the 1984 conscription task and discuss plans for first phase of 1985 troop recruitment. In 1984, the district fulfilled its conscription plan norms satisfactorily. thanks to the district military command's effort in comprehensively disseminating the military service law to various sectors and echelons concerned. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1300 GMT 28 Nov 84 BK]

HA TUYEN BORDER MILITIAMEN--The border districts of Vi Xuyen, Yen Minh, Quang Ba, Dong Van, Meo Vac, Hoang Xu Phi, and Xin Man in Ha Tuyen Province have intensively built their militia and self-defense forces, making them ready to fight and maintain political security and social safety in the various localities. All the villages, state farms, and state forests along the border have organized mobile militia and self-defense platoons. Trained in infantry techniques and tactics suited to the local terrain, and fully equipped with weapons, they are always combat ready. The 33 villages along the border have all formulated plans for combat, combat coordination, and sharing border patrol and guard duties with the local armed forces and the border defense force. Since April, the villages of Minh Tan, Lao Chai, Chi Chai, Thanh Tuy, and Thanh Duc have persistently held fast to the forward positions in their counterattacks against landgrabbing operations launched by Chinese soldiers, killing hundreds of them and capturing many others and many groups of Chinese scouts and commandos. Hundreds of militiamen from the villages on the inner defense line have provided timely support by coordinating with the border villages in the fight to defend the fatherland. [Text] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 28 Nov 84 BK]

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

NHAN DAN SAYS PRC SABOTEUR OF PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

BK231059 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 21 Nov 84

[Text] The Vietnamese daily NHAN DAN on Wednesday, 21 November, commented that Beijing is a saboteur of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The paper said: The UN General Assembly has just ended its debate on the issue of peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia. From this debate, an urgent demand was raised for dialogue between groups of countries aimed at solving outstanding problems in conformity with the legitimate aspiration of the people in Southeast Asia.

At this forum, the delegates of China and its followers made slanderous charges saying the cause of instability in Southeast Asia is due to Vietnam's invasion and occupation of Kampuchea. They harped on familiar distortion of the situation in the region in an attempt to cover up the real cause of the regional tension and obstruct the trend for dialogue between countries in the region.

Broad public opinion in Southeast Asia is well aware of the truth and knows clearly who is the saboteur of peace and stability of the Southeast Asia nations. The main threat comes from Beijing. The Beijing authorities themselves organized and directed the Pol Pot clique to conduct a brutal genocide in Kampuchea and are nurturing this clique and other reactionary forces to oppose the marvelous revival of the Kampuchea people. Some 600,000 of Chinese troops conducted aggression against Vietnam's northern border provinces, the biggest invasion in Southeast Asia in 1979.

The Chinese authorities are carrying out the multifaceted war of sabotage against Vietnam. They encouraged the Thai reactionaries to attack and occupy three Lao hamlets and are trying to sabotage the trend for dialogue between the two groups of countries--ASEAN and Indochina--in an attempt to maintain a tense atmosphere and confrontation in the region. The Chinese authorities are also using armed Maoists and reactionaries to carry out sabotage and subversive activities against several ASEAN countries. Public opinion right in the ASEAN clearly sees Beijing's hostility. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed stressed that Malaysia considers China a long-term threat to the security in Southeast Asia. The Indonesian military leader also openly said that it is necessary to heighten vigilance toward Beijing who directed a wicked subversion in Indonesia.

Obviously Chinese expansionism is the biggest threat to peace and security of all Southeast Asian nations. Beijing's hands cannot cover the sunlight and the fact that the Vietnamese Army has the right to self-defense and to help the Kampuchean people overthrow the genocidal Pol Pot clique and defend their country. Vietnamese Army volunteers will withdraw from Kampuchea when China ends its threat to the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. We resolutely reject the Beijing authorities' demand for unilateral withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea to bring Polpotists or disguised Polpotists back to dominate and massacre the Kampuchean people once again.

Beijing's nurturing of the Pol Pot clique to oppose the Kampuchean people and realize its dark design in Southeast Asia is at variant to the demand for the elimination of Pol Pot butcher so that the situation in the region is stable.

Over the past 6 years, all measures, including military, economic, political, and diplomatic, of China and its followers in the ASEAN countries against the three Indochinese countries have been foiled. There is no other way than that of dialogue between the two groups of countries in the principle of equality, mutual respect, and nonaggression from outside.

A Southeast Asia of peace and stability brings about many interests for the people in the region. Now is the time for countries in the region to be aware of their legitimate interests and those of the region and join hands in seeking a correct and constructive solution aimed at ensuring peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

To promote the dialogue between the two groups of countries of ASEAN and Indochina is a correct and only way in response to the aspiration of more than 315 million people in Southeast Asia.

CSO: 4200/219

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

NICARAGUA TO RECEIVE SUGAR, MEDICINE AS AID

BK230922 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Nov 84

[Text] Since early November the U.S. imperialists have been resorting to a new dangerous and frenzied escalation against Nicaragua's revolution. Thousands of remnant troops of the Somoza dictatorship have been nurtured and armed by the United States to carry out a comprehensive war of sabotage, to conduct armed provocations, and to attack border areas of Nicaragua.

More blatantly, the U.S. Government has ordered dozens of warships close to Nicaraguan territorial waters while sending many aircraft into Nicaraguan airspace, grossly violating the country's sovereignty and directly threatening it. Facing this situation, Nicaragua must allot a considerable portion of its manpower and budget to national defense, creating more difficulties for Nicaragua's weak economy, which has been caused by the policy of impoverishment on the part of the United States and the Somoza dictatorial clique and by war destruction. In the face of these difficulties, the Nicaraguan Government has appealed for aid and assistance from the socialist community.

To express the Vietnamese party's governments', and people's deep sympathy and strong support for the Nicaraguan revolution in its difficulty and ordeal and to respond to the urgent appeal for aid by the government of national reconstruction of Nicaragua in the spirit of sharing difficulty, our government has decided to send as aid to the Nicaraguan people 3,000 metric tons of sugar and a volume of medicine.

CSO: 4209/80

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

VAN TIEN DUNG GREETINGS ON CUBAN ARMY DAY

OW011601 Hanoi VNA in English 1522- MT 1 Dec 84

[Text] Hanoi, 1 Dec (VNA)--General Van Tien Dung, minister of national defence, has sent his warmest greetings to General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba on the 28th anniversary of the day of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba (December 2).

The message says that the Vietnamese People's Army are very proud and happy having a brother and loyal comrade-in-arms as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba.

It expresses heartfelt thanks to the party, government, people of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba for their strong support and precious assistance to the Vietnamese people and their armed forces in their resistance against the U.S. aggression for national salvation in the past as well as in the present construction and defence of socialist Vietnam.

The message goes on: "At present, in face of the extremely tense situation in the world caused by the U.S. imperialists, the people and armed forces of Cuba are upholding their revolutionary vigilance, increasing their defence capacity to firmly defend their beloved motherland while discharging with merit their noble international obligation towards fraternal nations."

"May the military solidarity, fraternal friendship and close cooperation between the peoples and armed forces of the two countries further consolidate and develop in the interests of the revolution of each country, of socialism and of the national struggle against imperialism," the message adds.

CSO: 4200/219

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

PHAM VAN DONG SENDS GREETINGS ON PALESTINE DAY

OW281748 Hanoi VNA in English 1607 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] Hanoi, 28 Nov (VNA)--Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong today sent a message of greetings to U.N. General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar and Massamba Sarre, president of the committee on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, on the United Nations' international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The message says:

"In face of their getting bagged down and failure, the U.S. Administration and Israel have increased their collusion, stuck to their policy of intervention and aggression, sought ways and means to undermine the unity of the Palestinian people and imposed a solution on the Palestinian people which runs counter to the Palestinian people's fundamental national rights and the other Arabs, the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO promoting their staunch and indomitable tradition, are bravely struggle against the U.S. and Israel's intervention and aggression for national independent and making worthy contributions to the struggle for peace and independence of nations in Middle East and the rest of the world". [As received]

The message continues:

"The people and government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam fully support the Palestinian people's just struggle for their sacred individual national rights, including the right to self-determination, the right to return to their country and set up an independent and sovereign Palestinian state. The Soviet Union's recent proposal on convening an international conference on Middle East with the participation of parties concerned, including the PLO is a practical and fair proposal aimed at finding out a correct solution for the Middle East and Palestinian issues".

"The struggles of nations have shown that 'solidarity is strength' and is the foremost decisive factor for success".

"We firmly believe that, the Palestinian people with the strong support of the peace- and justice-loving people throughout the world, rallying the

revolutionary forces around the PLO--their only authentic representative--and uniting with the other Arab nations, will gain final victory.

"We hope that the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people will help to increase the international community's support and assistances to the just cause of the Palestinian people".

CSO: 4200/219

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

BRIEFS

SOVIET-EQUIPPED CEMENT PLANT--Hanoi, 19 Nov (VNA)--The minutes on the hand-over of the Bim Son cement plant built with Soviet assistance was signed at a ceremony held today by the Ministry of Construction. Present on the occasion were PHam Ngoc Tuong, alternate member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and minister of construction; and representatives of the Office of the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Foreign Trade. Also present were A.I. Levchenko, counsellor of the Soviet Embassy; V.D. Naguibine, Soviet economic counsellor; and the head of the Soviet experts group working at the cement plant. The Bim Son plant, build in Thanh Hoa Province (about 150 kilometres south of Hanoi), has two production lines with a total annual capacity of 1.2 million tons. It is the first Soviet-equipped project which has been commissioned since the signing of the Vietnam-USSR treaty of friendship cooperation on November 3, 1984. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1652 GMT 19 Nov 84 BK]

GREETINGS TO LEBANON--Hanoi, 21 Nov (VNA)--Truong Chinh, president of the State Council, today extended his warm greetings to President of the Republic of Lebanon Amin al-Jumayyil on the occasion of its 41st national day. In his message of greetings, President Truong Chinh said: "We wish the Lebanon peace and stability, and the Lebanese people happiness and prosperity. May the friendly relations between the Vietnamese and Lebanese peoples be constantly consolidated and developed." On this occasion, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach sent a message of greetings to his Lebanese counterpart, Rashid Karmi. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1626 GMT 21 Nov 84 OW]

SRV, GDR ECONOMIC COOPERATION--Hania, 21 Nov (VNA)--Gerhard Weiss, member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in Berlin on November 19 Tran Quynh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers. Gerhard Weiss and Tran Quynh who head their countries' respective sub-commissions of the Vietnam-GDR Commission for Economic, scientific and Technical Cooperation, expressed their satisfaction at the results of the bilateral cooperation and discussed measures to implement the signed economic agreements, especially in the domain of light industry. The GDR will increase its participation in Vietnam's projects of producing and processing agricultural products in line with the decisions reached at the summit conferences of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA) in Moscow and at the recent 39th CEMA meeting in Havana. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1558 GMT 21 Nov 84 OW]

ALBANIAN-SRV TIES PRAISED--Hanoi, 23 Nov (VNA)--Albanian Ambassador Syrja Laze held a press conference here this evening on the 40th anniversary of the national day of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. The ambassador outlined the achievements recorded by the Albanian people in all fields, economy, culture and living standards, under the leadership of the Party of Labour since liberation from Nazi occupation. The Albanian diplomat praised the friendly relations between the people of Vietnam and Albania and expressed his joy at the continued development of these relations in the interests of the two peoples. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1706 GMT 23 Nov 84 OW]

OFFSHORE ISLANDS SOVEREIGNTY STATED--Hanoi, 23 Nov (VNA)--The head of a Vietnamese meteorological delegation has declared that any registration of a meteorological station on the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes without permission of the Vietnamese Government will be considered completely illegal. Speaking at the 9th meteorological conference on Asia held in Geneva, Tran Van An said that Vietnam's sovereignty over the two said archipelagoes was unquestionable, both on the legal and historical planes. The conference had earlier unanimously adopted a list of meteorological stations in the Synop system including the Truong Sa (also known as Spratly Islands) station registered by Vietnam. However, also at this conference, a country asked to install a station named by itself and related to the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes of Vietnam. Tran Van An said Vietnam objected to putting this request in the appendix of the resolution of the conference. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1613 GMT 23 Nov 84 OW]

GREETINGS TO MAURITANIA--Hanoi, 27 Nov (VNA)--President of the State Council Truong Chinh today extended his warm greetings to Mohamed Ould Haydala, president of the Military Committee of National Salvation and head of state of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on his country's 24th national day (Nov 28). His message wishes the Mauritanian people happiness and prosperity and the friendly relations between Vietnam and Mauritania further development. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1646 GMT 27 Nov 84 OW]

SOUTHERN PROVINCES INCREASE EXPORTS--Hanoi, 28 Nov (VNA)--Output value of export items achieved this year by Bien Hoa, capital of Dong Nai Province, north of Ho Chi Minh City, reached almost 60 million dong, a threefold increase over the same period last year. The export commodities, mostly bamboo, rattan and ceramics articles, have been much favoured by foreign customers. Thanks to economic cooperation with other provinces and the government's export-import policy, the province has enough materials for the production of export items. The handicraft branch of the Mekong River Delta Province of Long An has so far this year earned 22 million dong worth of export articles, accounting for one third of the province's total export value. The province has zoned an area covering 3,600 hectares for growing jute and rush to provide materials for the production of export handicraft items. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0722 GMT 28 Nov 84 OW]

NATIONAL DAY GREETINGS TO BENIN--Hanoi, 29 Nov (VNA)--President of the State Council Truong Chinh and chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong have sent their warm greetings to President Mathieu Kerekou, president of the National Executive Council of the People's Republic of Benin, on the

12th anniversary of Benin's national day (Nov 30). The Vietnamese leaders' message of greetings says: "We rejoice at the great achievements recorded by the Benin people under the leadership of the People's Revolutionary Party and the National Executive Council headed by your excellency, in their endeavours to liquidate the vestiges of colonialism, develop the economy and culture and defend national security and territorial integrity. These achievements are significant contributions of the Benin people to the common struggle against imperialism, colonialism and other reactionary forces, for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress in Africa and other parts of the world". The message wishes for constant development of the solidarity and friendship between the two peoples. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0758 GMT 30 Nov 84 OW]

SOVIET JOURNALIST DELEGATION--Hanoi, 29 Nov (VNA)--A delegation of the Union of Soviet Journalists (USJ) has been visiting Vietnam since November 20 as guest of the Vietnam Journalists' Association (VJA). The delegation is headed by Dzhumaliyevich Tursunov, member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Socialist Republic, deputy to the Supreme Soviet, editor-in-chief of the paper SOVIET KIRGHIZ, and secretary of the USJ. On November 28, Tursunov and Dao Tung, general secretary of the VJA, on behalf of the USJ and the VJA, signed an agreement on cooperation between the two journalist organizations from now to 1990. On the same day Hoang Tung, president of the VJA and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, received and had a cordial talk with the Soviet journalists. The guests talked to the participants in a refresher course for editors-in-chief of local radio and television stations jointly opened by the department for propaganda and training of the CPV CC and the Vietnam broadcasting and television committee. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0747 GMT 30 Nov 84 OW]

CONGO PRESIDENT CONGRATULATED--Hanoi, 1 Dec (VNA)--President of the State Council Truong Chinh has extended his warmest congratulations to Denis Sassou-nguesso in his inauguration for a new term of office as chief of state of the People's Republic of Congo. The message wished for new and still greater achievements of the Congolese people and constant development of the militant solidarity and the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1531 GMT 1 Dec 84 OW]

USSR SOCIAL INSURANCE DELEGATION--Hanoi, 1 Dec (VNA)--A delegation of the Soviet Social Insurance Service led by Mrs Komarova Donna Pavlovna, minister for social insurance of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic is visiting Vietnam at the invitation of the Vietnamese Ministry for Disabled Soldiers and Social Affairs. Tran Quynh, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers cordially received the delegation here today. Soviet Ambassador B.N. Chaplin was present on the occasion. On November 28, Song Hao, minister of the host ministry, discussed with Mrs Pavlovna measures to enhance the friendly cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union in the domain of social insurance. D. Pavlovna on behalf of the RSFSR's association of the blind, presented to the Vietnamese Association of the Blind 25 packages of gifts for the blind. The Soviet delegation toured a number of facilities for the invalids, including an orthopedic and rehabilitation center, and job training schools in Hanoi, Haiphong and Ho Chi Minh City. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1528 GMT 1 Dec 84 OW]

POLISH LECTURER'S VISIT--Hanoi, 26 Nov (VNA)--Andrzej Palinks, lecturer of the Polish United Workers Party Central Committee, visited Vietnam from November 13-22. During his stay, A. Palinks gave a talk on "Forty years of socialist construction in Poland" in Hanoi and Haiphong. He was cordially received by Dao Duy Tung, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and head of its department for propaganda and training. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0705 GMT 26 Nov 84 OW]

SOVIET RED CROSS AID--Hanoi, 24 Nov (VNA)--The Soviet Red Cross Society has decided to send a quantity of medicines, blankets, clothes, fabrics, milks, etc as relief to Vietnamese people in flood and storm-stricken areas. The aid will be air-lifted to Vietnam soon by a special Aeroflot flight. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0718 GMT 24 Nov 84 OW]

PRK'S MESSAGE ACKNOWLEDGED--Comrade Chan Si, chairman of the PRK Council of Ministers, recently recieved a message of thanks from Comrade Pham Van Dong, chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers. The mesage noted, among other things: I am greatly moved by the intimate feelings of fraternity expressed in your message of sympathy to the Vietnamese people, particularly those in Nghe Tinh and Binh Tri Thien provinces, concerning the damage caused by the typhoon in October. I would like to express most profound and sincere thanks to you and the fraternal Kampuchean people. Please accept my regards full of solidarity. [Text] [Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Nov 84 BK]

CSO: 4212/19

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

DAILY ON PHAM HUNG ADDRESS AT YOUTH CONFERENCE

BK301602 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 26 Sep 84 pp 1, 4

[VNA report]

[Text] The Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee and the Ministry of Interior recently held a conference in Hanoi to review the implementation of the joint resolution on youth work to support the cause of the fatherland's defense.

Attending the conference were nearly 200 delegates who are leaders of provincial and city public security forces and youth unions and chapters of various provinces, cities, and special zones.

Comrades Vu Mao, party Central Committee member and first secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee; Tran Dong, party Central Committee member and vice minister of interior; members of the Youth Union Central Committee secretariat; and other comrades in charge of the various sections of the Youth Union Central Committee attended.

Also attending the conference were representatives of the Defense Ministry, the office of the party Central Committee, the Council of Ministers' office, the General Federation of Trade Unions, and the Women's Union. Comrade Pham Hung, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of interior, attended and addressed the conference.

In the past two years, localities have urgently and simultaneously implemented the joint resolution of the Youth Union Central Committee and the Ministry of Interior, creating an emulation movement among youths and teenagers to fulfill the tasks of maintaining political security and social order and security. Thus far, some 26 provinces, cities, and special zones have preliminarily reviewed the implementation of this resolution. From 40 to 50 percent of districts and primary units in Hai Hung, Thuan Hai, Ha Bac, and Nghe Tinh provinces have reviewed the movement, drawn upon their experiences, and discussed measures to continually accelerate the implementation of this resolution in primary units and among the masses.

In the near future, the Youth Union Central Committee and the Ministry of Interior will focus on the organization of an emulation movement for

revolutionary acts to effectively assure order and security, intensively develop the core force charged with assuring order and security, continually conduct propaganda to educate the younger generations on the task of ensuring order and security so as to better implement the joint resolution of the Youth Union Central Committee and the Ministry of Interior on the youth task in national defense.

In his address, Comrade Pham Hung praised the youths for their numerous achievements in defending the fatherland's security, and stressed: "As a right hand and a reliable reserve body of the party, youths throughout the country are always the assault force in all revolutionary movements. They live with ideals, fight courageously, and work creatively. They have achieved umpteen glorious armed exploits, making worthy contributions to our nation's great revolutionary cause."

Assessing the joint resolution of the Youth Union Central Committee and the Ministry of Interior on the youth task in defending the fatherland's security, Pham Hung asserted that this resolution "materializes the lines of defending security and order which were set forth in the resolution of the fifth nationwide party congress. It is at the same time the result of socialist collective mastery by the young generations nationwide on the front of defending the homeland's security and developing the country in the new stage."

Comrade Pham Hung urged the youth union echelons to consolidate the youth union and teenagers' group organizations so as to make them fully capable of carrying out proselytism work targeted against youths and teenagers in the new situation. Each youth union member must train himself to be a new man, a collective master, and a true master of the country. Each youth union organization must actively take the initiative in the spirit of collective mastery and socialist cooperation and adopt concrete programs, plans, and methods for organization and, on this basis, develop the spirit of creativity and emulation so as to fulfill the assigned tasks. At the same time they must periodically review experience and give encouragement to one another.

On this occasion, the youth union central committee and the Ministry of Interior awarded banners to the youths of Hanoi Municipality and Ho Chi Minh City in recognition of their being the best emulation units in the movement to defend the fatherland's security. The Ministry of Interior also presented outstanding emulation unit banners to the youths of five provinces--Ha Tuyen, Ha Bac, Nghe Tinh, Quang Nam-Danang, and Long An.

CSO: 4209/80

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

ALL-ARMY CONFERENCE ON PARTY BUILDING REPORTED

BK011625 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 1 Oct 84, p 1

[Report by Xuan Hao]

[Text] An all-army conference was recently held to review the building of basic party organizations at various material-technical management units. The purposes of the conference were to evaluate correctly the real leadership situation of basic party organizations and to discuss ways to put the building of basic party organizations onto the right track.

The conference unanimously assessed that over the past few years, party organizations at various levels, especially basic party organizations, have scrupulously implemented the resolutions of the Fourth and Fifth party congresses and various directives of the party Central Committee Secretariat. They have exerted great efforts to carry out many tasks successfully and have shown improvement in all respects. They have led their units in overcoming numerous difficulties and fulfilling to varying degrees their tasks regarding the management, storing, maintenance, supply, and use of weapons, equipment, and materials, thus meeting requirements for maintaining a high degree of combat readiness for the armed forces so that they can fight victoriously and for building up the armed forces.

Given the demands arising from the tasks of the armed forces in the new stage and with a spirit of criticism and self-criticism, the conference scrupulously pointed out many errors, deficiencies, and serious shortcomings which have had a direct impact on the combat effectiveness of the armed forces and on the leadership role of related basic party organizations and party members. The conference profoundly analyzed the reasons for these shortcomings and discussed practical measures to correct them.

To effect a vigorous change in the building of basic party organizations at all material-technical management units, the conference unanimously pointed out a number of problems to be fully realized and thoroughly resolved:

--In order to build basic party organizations into clean and steadfast ones so that they can play a core role in building basic material-technical management units into comprehensively steadfast ones, we must be fully aware of party lines and policies, the state law, and the army's rules and

regulations. We must fully grasp the characteristics, position, character, and fundamental political tasks of each material-technical management unit as well as all the targets to be attained while carrying out our tasks, regarding them as a basis for building basic party organizations politically, ideologically, and organizationally.

--Scrupulously comply with all the party's leadership principles and systems, be fully aware of and bring into full play the leadership role of basic party organizations--party chapters--improve the principled character and the fighting strength of basic party organizations, and develop fully the functions of unit commander.

--It is necessary to regard the building of party chapters and the contingent of party members as a key task. Great attention must be paid to training those party members who are key cadres. This must be regarded as an urgent, basic, and long-term task.

--Basic party organizations--party chapters--and command cadres must take full responsibility for providing constant care to the spiritual and material life of cadres and combatants in their units.

CSO: 4209/80

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

NHAN DAN ON CENTRAL HIGHLANDS PARTY BUILDING

BK011611 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 30 Sep 84, pp 1, 4

[Text] The CPV Central Committee's Organization Department recently held a seminar in Dac Lac to discuss party building work in the Central Highlands and the western part of the central coastal provinces.

Comrade Tran Kien, CPV Central Committee secretary chaired the seminar.

Over the years, various grassroots party organizations in the Central Highlands and the western part of the central coastal provinces have firmly grasped the resolution of the Fifth CPV Congress and the resolutions and directives of the central government, accelerated tasks of building the Central Highlands and have scored many achievements. Various party organizations have effected their supervision by combing economic building with the national defense tasks, and agriculture with forestry and industry, thereby increasing the strengths of the whole region. Party membership has rapidly increased from 15,000 in 1975 to 37,000 in 1984. The majority of party members have undergone training and overcome ordeals in combat and production. They have satisfactorily carried out the party's positions and policies while scrupulously observing state law. They have also paid close attention to the mass movement, strengthened grassroots establishments, and stabilized production and the people's daily life.

Various party organizations have concentrated their efforts on building party grassroots organizations, especially at village and subward levels. Tens of thousands of party cadres and members have been assigned their party committees and party chapters. Party organizations have also organized courses for training and fostering groups of core cadres for the grassroots, thereby improving the quality of party members and perfecting grassroots organizations. To date, all villages and subwards have established party grassroots organizations. Many party chapters and organizations have realized the political tasks, gradually developed the economic strengths of their localities, consolidated the local administration and mass organizations, stabilized political security and social order, and strengthened militia and self-defense forces. Through these tasks they have trained and fostered party cadres and improved the quality of new party members. The numbers of local party members who are young and capable have increased remarkably.

Over the past 9 years, under the leadership of various party organizations, the Central Highlands has developed considerably. Some 300,000 compatriots from provinces in zone 5 delta area and the north who were assigned to work in the Central Highlands have, together with the local people, opened new land and reclaimed fallow land, built water conservancy projects, planted industrial crops, developed wet rice, planted and exploited forests, and established hundreds of state farms, forestry sites, enterprises, and other posts. The whole region now has 250 agricultural cooperatives and more than 1,800 production collectives, thereby collectivizing more than 45 percent of the cultivated area and more than 50 percent of the agricultural labor forces. People of various nationalities have accelerated the settlement of nomads. In 1983, the gross grain output was more than 600,000 metric tons, or more than 300 kg per capital.

In the years ahead, the Central Highlands must concentrate its efforts on strengthening grassroots party organizations in close association with district building and strengthening and accelerate the party building task with the emphasis on the local people and ethnic minority groups, while paying special attention to newly liberated areas [vungf mowis giair phongs], various economic establishments, state farms, forestry sites, and cooperatives.

The Central Highlands must strive to build pure, firm, and strong district and grassroots party organizations within the next several years.

Various party organizations in the Central Highlands and the western part of the central coastal provinces must consistently enhance their capability in leadership and economic management, improve their performances in protecting the party, and enhance the vigilance of party cadres, members, and the masses while striving to build a strong and prosperous Central Highlands.

CSO: 4209/80

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

NHAN DAN ON PARTY DEVELOPMENT IN NAM BO PROVINCES

BK020926 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 3 Oct 84 p 3

[Text] Greater attention has been given to party development in the provinces of former Nam Bo during the first months of this year. On the basis of the political tasks of their respective localities, many party committee echelons have elaborate plans for party development and have guided basic party organizations in carrying out this task. In Tien Giang Province, the planning of party development was linked with the training of cadres for production collectives and agricultural cooperatives. These party committees of Hau Giang, Cuu Long, and Kien Giang provinces selected a number of localities as pilot points for party development work to gain experience first, then instructed other villages and city wards to follow suit. Cuu Long Province provided guidance for party development work among workers. In Tien Giang, An Giang, and Dong Nai provinces, importance was attached to opening training courses for basic-level party committee echelons in party development work. Meanwhile, Ho Chi Minh City and the An Giang provincial party committee organized party development work in different phases so as to be able to guide it more closely and improve the quality of party members.

Party development work has been carried out fairly well, and the quality of party members has been ensured in those localities that have worked out plans for this task, actively created sources of new membership, applied themselves to training potential members, and regularly looked for new members among the various revolutionary movements of the masses. In the first 6 months of this year, Ho Chi Minh City has admitted 3,430 new members, an increase of 4 percent over the same period last year. Hau Giang, An Giang, and Song Be provinces and Vung Tau-Con Dau special zone have expanded their party memberships at a faster rate than during the corresponding period in 1983. The 1st, 5th, 10th, and 11th precincts and Cu Chi and Hoc Mon districts of Ho Chi Minh City; Binh Minh and Tra On districts and Vinh Long city of Cuu Long Province; and Ho Thanh District of Tay Ninh Province are units that have successfully made party development a regular task.

Most of the newly admitted party members in the Nam Bo provinces are young--87 percent of them under 30 years old--and have fair education and scientific and technical knowledge. With these new party members, the basic party organizations in the Nam Bo provinces now have an adequate manpower base for the training of cadres for the revolutionary movement and for the reorganization of cadres in production collectives and agricultural cooperatives.

The number of installations having a party organization also has increased. Long Thanh and Chau Phu districts in Hau Giang Province and Hoc Mon District and Nha Be precinct of Ho Chi Minh City have succeeded in building basic party organizations in all of their villages and wards.

Party development work in the Nam Bo provinces, however, has not yet been carried out evenly, vigorously, and on a par with the development of the revolutionary movement. Nor has it met the requirements of the political tasks of each locality. In some provinces, only 25 percent of their basic organizations have carried out party development work. It is noteworthy that the population-party member ratio in many villages and wards remains low and that a number of important economic zones have failed to pay attention to party development. Many factories and enterprises have admitted no new party members for 7-8 consecutive years.

CSO: 4209/80

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

NHAN DAN EDITORIAL ON QUALITY OF PARTY CADRES

BK191634 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 8 Nov 84

[NHAN DAN 9 November editorial: "Quality of Party Cadres and Members"]

[Text] Through a long and arduous struggle, our party has proven its fine qualities. It has led to successful conclusion the national democratic revolution and defeated many of the most ferocious forces of aggression; and today, it leads the socialist revolution nationwide and at the same time leads the cause of defending the socialist fatherland. Countless elite children of the party and nation have valiantly made sacrifices; and in the new stage of the revolution, the communists always assume a vanguard position in all spheres of activity, regardless of difficulties, hardship, and privations. Millions of party cadres and members--by their own sweat, blood and bones, and with the will to do all for the socialist fatherland and the people's happiness--steadfastly defend our fatherland's sacred borders and selflessly labor on all fronts of socialist construction. Millions of party cadres and members--wholeheartedly loyal to the party and the fatherland, firmly upholding their fighting spirit, and maintaining close relations with the people--are ready to go anywhere and do anything requested by the party and fatherland.

This contingent of party cadres and members constitutes a valuable asset and a source of pride for our party and people. However, as in any other revolution, there are degenerate and traitorous elements--persons who lose their fighting spirit and revolutionary quality--harmful pests, and dirty garbage which must be eliminated and swept aside by the revolutionary currents. In our party, beside the greater part of party cadres and members who possess fine qualities, there unfortunately exists a number of party cadres and members with weakened fighting spirit, including high- and mid-level cadres serving at the central level and in the various provinces and municipalities, who have degenerated in terms of ideology and after years of fighting the enemy even before the August revolution and during the first war of resistance.

The recent punishment of a number of high- and mid-level cadres in Dong Nai Province for their offenses, in accordance with the law is a typical case involving degenerate and degraded cadres who abuse their positions and

authority and take erroneous actions to satisfy their illegitimate personal whims, who carry out corrupt practices and accept bribes, who completely drop their vigilance, who gang up with reactionary elements to conduct illegal activities for money and gold and indulge themselves in decadent entertainment, who use ill-gotten money to seduce and buy others, and who even carry out internal repression in a bid to cover up their own offenses. This is an extremely serious case of party cadres and members committing offenses that are highly detrimental to the revolution and the people, adversely affect the prestige of the party and state, and violate the people's right to collective mastery. This case teaches us many profound lessons and reminds our entire party to further improve and intensify organizational, cadre, and party member control work activities, practice democracy and discipline within the party, and develop the right to collective mastery of party members and the masses.

The cause of the decline in quality and degeneration in life-style of a number of party cadres and members lies in individualism. We know how seriously such negative phenomena have developed due to the influence of the bourgeois life-style and neocolonialism since the liberation of the south. Due to weakness in the face of the tempting bait set out by the enemy and the lure of material wealth and money, some persons have completely lost their revolutionary spirit and struggle orientations. Obviously, a number of weak and cowardly party cadres have been hit and destroyed by the enemy in its multifaceted war of sabotage.

We already know of the disastrous consequences of the slackening of control over party members, the failure to carry out self-criticism and criticism strictly, the lack of internal democracy which prevents party members from making their views known to the leadership and the lower echelons from criticizing the higher echelons, the failure to make thorough and timely investigations, and the lack of decisiveness in enforcing discipline which gives rise to attempts to cover up and condone others' wrongdoings out of deference. These are also the causes of the slow discovery and checking of shortcomings and errors made by party cadres and members, and of the slow improvement of party members' quality. Many party committee echelons still lean to the right and are hesitant to expel from the party persons not qualified for party membership.

We are building socialism from the ruins of war at a time when the garbage left behind by old and new colonialisms has not yet been cleared. The Chinese reactionaries, the U.S. imperialists, other international reactionary forces, and the remnants of the old system are in collusion to oppose our people's revolutionary cause. Defeated by our people's heroic resistance, they try to undermine our will in a bid to make our party cadres and members give up their own glorious traditions, fine quality, and spiritual values, become degraded, adopt an egoistical and corrupt life-style, and consequently forsake the sacred interests of the fatherland and the people.

In this situation, political and ideological education aimed at forging and enhancing the quality of party cadres and members has become all the more a pressing and extremely important matter of survival to our party and people and to the revolutionary cause in our country. This task is of great strategic significance to a ruling party. Our party's invincible might

stems from the steadfastness and strength of each party member and each basic party organization. This invincible might lies in the close bond between the party and the people, in the realization of the working people's right to collective mastery, and in the fine quality of every party cadres and member.

Individualism is alien to the Communist Party and the communists. All party cadres and members must follow the example set by President Ho Chi Minh with regard to diligence, thrift, honesty, righteousness, justice, and impartiality; wholeheartedly serve the fatherland and the people; and do all for the socialist fatherland and the people's happiness. Under any circumstance, no matter how much difficulty and privation may be involved, party cadres and members must firmly hold fast to their quality, ideals, and battle stations.

To enhance the militancy and ensure the purity of the party it is necessary to tighten control and management over party members and to resolutely expel from the party all those found not qualified for party membership, no matter how high their positions may be. In the party as well as in the state apparatus, discipline must be enforced in a strict, just, and equal manner, and without exception. Party cadres and members, irrespective of their level or and position, must be dealt with according to the law if they commit offenses in violation of the law; and all attempts at mitigation or condonation are forbidden. The strictness and justice exacted by our party and state constitute a deterrent toward those who are about to embark on the wrong road; and at the same time, they encourage our party cadres and members to constantly force their quality and enhance their revolutionary will and capability.

The militant ranks of our party are massive and steadfast; and they are continually being reinforced with new strength and vitality in the form of persons who have gone through trials, labor, and combat. All party organizations must carefully forge, foster, and enhance the revolutionary quality of all classes of party cadres and members in order to contribute to the fulfillment of the glorious cause of the party and the nation.

CSO: 4209/80

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

HANOI ON DONG SY NGUYEN'S VISIT TO NGHIA BINH

BK251434 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Nov 84

[Text] Comrade Dong Sy Nguyen, alternate Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers recently went to Nghia Binh to inspect the conditions of the people's life and production in the wake of typhoon No. 9.

The comrade vice chairman of the Council of Ministers worked with the Nghia Binh provincial party committee's Standing Committee and the people's committee and visited a number of villages in Phu My and Phu Cac districts and some communications and posts and telegraph projects heavily damaged by the typhoon. At every place he visited, Comrade Dong Sy Nguyen conveyed the solicitous regards of the party Central Committee, the Council of Ministers, and the Council of Ministers Chairman Pham Van Dong to the local cadres and people. He commended the typhoon-ravaged districts and sectors for having maintained close contact with the grassroots units and having motivated the people to bring into full play their spirit of self-reliance and mutual support and assistance, having gradually overcome the aftermath of the recent typhoons and floods, normalized life, and stepped up the 1984-85 winter-spring crop production to make up for losses to the 10th-month crop.

CSO: 4209/80

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

HO CHI MINH CITY PARTY COMMITTEE REVIEWS TASKS

BK240913 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Nov 84

[Text] The Ho Chi Minh City party committee recently held a conference to review all aspects of its activities over the past 10 months, especially since the announcement of the CPV Central Committee sixth plenum's resolution. The executive committee of the city party organization decided to carry out a number of immediate tasks to accelerate the implementation of the Central Committee sixth plenum's resolution, and strive to triumphantly fulfill the 1984 socioeconomic plan, thereby creating favorable conditions for attaining higher output, better quality, and improved results in 1985.

Pending receipt of guiding documents from the central government on implementing the party Central Committee sixth plenum's resolution, the city has issued a number of temporary regulations aimed at creating conditions for various production and business establishments to promptly overcome difficulties, especially problems of materials, energy, and quality of products; strengthen product management at production units, improve management at cottage industry installations and small industry and handicraft units, and quickly reorganize various industrial, small industry and handicraft establishments in the city as well as agricultural, business, and trade sectors.

CSO: 4209/80

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

NGHIA BINH PROVINCE RESTRUCTURES PRODUCTION

OW251544 Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Text] Hanoi, 25 Nov (VNA)--Nghia Binh, a coastal province of central Vietnam, has been restructuring production in the districts to boost economic development in all fields.

The province has an area of more than 1.1 million hectares with a population of 2.2 million farmers, workers and craftsmen.

In the anti-U.S. resistance war, Nghia Binh suffered heavy damage: two-thirds of its villages were destroyed, many hamlets were razed to the ground. Most of its forests were destroyed by U.S. defoliants, more than one-third of the arable land were left fallow and 600,000 people were herded into U.S.-puppet concentration camps.

Following liberation in 1975, Nghia Binh embarked on a vast rehabilitation program, combining transformation with construction. By 1979, the province had completed agricultural collectivization in both the lowlands and highlands, as well as socialist transformation of private industry and trade through the creation of small industry and handicraft cooperatives and joint state-private enterprises.

The coexistence of state-run and collective economic organizations beside the family economy in Nghia Binh has given rise to the need of reorganizing production at the grass-roots and at the district level.

Only in this way could production be developed along the lines of concentration, specialization, collectivization and integration.

After three years of implementation of the policy on building and reinforcing the district, there have been formed in Nghia Binh various categories of districts, with appropriate economic structures.

One has built an agro-industrial economic structure. This district has less arable land than the others--averaging only 560 square metres per capita. But with its new agro-industrial structure, the district has achieved an average annual food output per capita of 380 kilos.

It is striving to double the 1982's food output by 1990, and handicraft and small industrial output will make up 40 percent of the district's total agricultural and industrial output. It will sell to the state from 2.5 to three tons of paddy per hectare. Its export goods value will reach 300 million dong.

In 1983, the district achieved an average food production per capita of 460 kilos, sold to the state 2.5 tons of rice per hectare, and its handicraft and small industrial output accounted for 40 percent of the total agricultural and industrial output.

Three other districts which have built an agro-forestry-industrial structure are trying to rapidly raise their output of food and short-term industrial crops, boost cattle raising for meat and hides, step up tree-planting, afforestation and the processing of forest products.

Nine districts with an agro-forestry-fishery-industrial structure are striving to increase by from 30 to 5 percent their food output by 1990 compared with 1982, broaden the acreage and the output of perennial industrial crops and boost the production of seafoods for export (some of these districts even achieved more than two million dollar-convertible rubles in annual export value and delivered to the state from 1.5 to two tons of rice per hectare. Gross output value of small industries and handicrafts made up from 20 to 29 percent of the district's total agro-forestry-fishery-industrial output. With an economic structure combining agriculture with forestry and industry, seven other districts have solved their food problem. These districts have boosted forestry along the line of combining agriculture with forestry, through the expansion of the cultivation of perennial industrial crops such as cinnamon, pine trees and pepper, increase of the cattle, and exploitation of forestry byproducts to supply materials for pharmaceutical and handicraft production.

Each district has built an economic structure in accordance with its specific conditions and in close coordination with the provincial economy.

Two-thirds of the number of agricultural cooperatives in the province have developed small industry and handicrafts. Forests and forest land in the mountain regions have been allocated to local cooperatives for more responsible and fruitful use.

Coastal districts have set up sea fishing cooperatives or collectives.

Basing itself on the concrete socioeconomic development programs worked out by its districts from now till 1990, Nghia Binh is expected to have 100,000 hectares under intensive cultivation of rice, 20,000 hectares planted with sugarcane for an annual output of 100,000 tons of sugar, from 20,000 to 30,000 hectares of cashew, 2,000 hectares of castor-oil trees, ten million coconut palms and 100 million cinnamon trees. Its cattle herd is expected to increase to 300,000 head and salt production to 80,000-100,000 tons.

Cooperation in production has been stepped up among cooperatives inside each district, and among districts in and outside the province.

Every district is striving to bring down its population growth rate to below two percent by motivating the people to practice family planning and to resettle its population outside the district or province.

Along with structural changes in the economic field, Nghia Binh has expanded the educational and cultural facilities at the districts.

More general education schools, health care stations, hospitals, cable radio stations, cultural houses and libraries, professional and amateur art troupes have been established.

CSO: 4200/219

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

HO CHI MINH CITY GRAIN CONCERN OPERATES EFFECTIVELY

OW231301 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Correspondent Huy Toan's report from "Experience in Renovating the Economic Mechanism" program]

[Excerpts] Dear friends: The Ho Chi Minh City Grain Transactions Corporation recently emerged as a new factor drawing the public's attention country-wide. The corporation's fruitful operations testify to the success of the new way of thinking and doing things, in line with the spirit of the resolution of the Sixth Party Central Committee Plenum. In this program, we are going to talk about the experiences and operations of this corporation.

First, on its emergence, as you may recall, in the first few years following the liberation of southern Vietnam, we still applied the food-subsidy system for Ho Chi Minh City's 2.8 million people, with a monthly rice supply of 42,000 tons, whereas the best we could do was to secure a monthly supply of 17,000 tons of rice, just enough for 1.3 million people. How could we have closed the supply and demand gap, if we had not set up a procurement team going to various provinces to barter industrial goods for rice and paddy? That very procurement method later led to the emergence of the Ho Chi Minh Grain Transactions Corporation. With only 8 people working as a team at the beginning, on a capital of 3 million dong supplied by the Ho Chi Minh City party committee, the team, thanks to its dynamism and knack of getting assistance from the Mekong Delta provinces, on its maiden purchase trip, succeeded in securing 12,000 tons of rice, just in time to stave off the city's rice penury at the time.

After nearly 2 years of unofficial operations, the team, by mid-1980, was granted an official permit to operate under the name of the Ho Chi Minh City Grain Transactions Corporation, and began its profit-and-loss accounting. Thanks to its firm grasp of the status of the city's grain market, and to its ability to get to the city's rice supply sources, the corporation has posted its procurement stations in such advantageous areas as the An Lac and Tran Khanh Chieu markets, to buy up all the rice private traders bring there from various provinces, and put it under state control. With that purchase method, in only 20 days prior to the 1983 Tet, the corporation procured nearly 5,000 tons of rice through those stations. In terms of economic efficiency, the corporation, in the first year of operation, garnered 60 million

dong in profit, which was turned over to the city for further improvement of the living conditions of the city's 24,000 teachers, who were encountering livelihood difficulties.

After nearly 4 years of operation, by the end of 1983, the corporation's turnover amounted to 2.9 billion dong. However, the corporation's objective is not merely profit; its long-term objective is to make up shortcomings through transactions, as the leadership of Ho Chi Minh City pointed out. The corporation's responsibility has nothing to do with the city budget. The main objective is to avoid loss, and whatever profit there is, is used to expand the corporation, and gradually upgrade it into an integrated enterprise, which also deals with rice milling and food processing, helps stabilize rice prices, contributes to enhancing the equipment of material-technical bases in the rural areas, helps improve public welfare, and further ameliorate the living conditions of cadres, workers, and civil servants.

The corporation, from a small rice procurement team at the beginning, is now responsible for supplying rice to 2.1 million people in the city, not including the rice provided for some 300,000 transient people, and 100,000 people in the new economic zones. The amount of rice needed is very large indeed.

The Ho Chi Minh City Grain Transactions Corporation, through its operations, is in full control of the city's grain market. It assumes the entire task of procuring, distributing, and processing food, serving the people who do not buy rice at state-supplied prices. Thanks to the corporation's operations, the rice prices in Ho Chi Minh City have been stabilized in the past few years. The city private traders' with their areas of activity increasingly shrinking, are no longer capable of manipulating rice prices at will through speculation, as they used to.

With the success of such a rice transaction model, we hope that, in the near future, with further implementation of the resolution of the Sixth Party Central Committee Plenum, more and more business-service organizations, like the Ho Chi Minh City Grain Transactions Corporation, will emerge in other cities.

CSO: 4209/80

AGRICULTURE

BEIJING REMARKS ON SRV AGRICULTURE, PART II

OW290243 Beijing in Vietnamese to Vietnam 1400 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Part II of correspondent's article: "Vietnam's Agriculture Is in a Predicament"]

[Text] Since 1978, the Vietnamese authorities have thrown large amounts of state expenditures to the war of aggression in Kampuchea, causing a serious lack of funds for economic construction. As a result, investment in agriculture is very limited and agricultural material supplies are in short supply. This situation has seriously affected the development of Vietnam's agriculture.

Regarding this year's 5th-month rice crop, the Vietnamese authorities could supply the peasants with only enough seed to cultivate 50 percent of the planned acreage. The peasants had to get the rest of the seed themselves. Rice seed shortages forced peasants to get loans and buy the seed at very high prices on the free market. Those who did not have the money had to barter paddy that they used for their own nourishment for the rice seeds. The mixed rice seed yielded different types of rice seedlings, which required different growing conditions, thus creating management problems and seriously affecting rice yields.

Furthermore, chemical fertilizer and insecticide shortages are still widespread problems for Vietnam's agricultural production. Vietnamese papers have reported that Vietnam's current production of nitrogenous and phosphate fertilizers has failed to meet the country's agricultural production needs. Nearly all chemical fertilizers must be imported. In past years, Vietnam's imported chemical fertilizers met only 56 percent of the country's agricultural production requirements. This year chemical fertilizers are further reduced to just enough to meet 50 percent of the requirements. In fact, the amount of chemical fertilizers used in agricultural production is negligible. For this year's 5th-month rice crop, the amount of phosphate fertilizer that the Vietnamese authorities supplied to the peasants was only 5 percent [figure as heard] of past years' annual supplies. Even lime used in soil transformation could not be fully supplied by the authorities. Because of the rather high alkalinity of the soil, the 5th-month rice developed well, but many rice ears were empty. Seeing their rice plants turn red, the peasants had to get loans from whatever source available to buy lime, to be used for house construction, to apply to their paddies. The result, of course, was very poor.

In Vietnam, insecticides are now in shorter supply than chemical fertilizers. In May of this year, large areas of the food and industrial crops in northern Vietnam were ravaged by pests. Because of the Vietnamese authorities' inability to provide sufficient insecticides, all crop yields were seriously affected.

A number of Vietnamese refugees recently escaping from Vietnam said that during the first 6 months of this year, the Vietnamese authorities provided only a small amount of insecticide powder to those areas seriously ravaged by rice pests. But, lacking sprayers, the peasants had to mix the powder insecticides with sand and sprinkle them on their paddies. The results were very poor. Those peasants that did not have insecticides killed worms by hand, and the results were even poorer.

The Vietnamese refugees also talked about another lingering problem affecting Vietnam's agricultural production: Poor soil preparation capability. In Vietnamese rural areas in general, there is a lack of animal draft power. One cooperative alone in Vu Thu District, Ha Son Binh Province, lacks 40 working buffalo. In 1983 the authorities promised to supply the cooperative with five buffalo, but so far, it remains an empty promise. In addition, the quality of plowshares and harrows is very--and increasingly--poor, especially in northern Vietnam. In the past, a plowshare could be used for an average of 1-2 years, but now plowshares must be replaced twice in only 1 year.

As for the two-way contract signed by the Vietnamese authorities and the peasants, because the authorities have regularly not honored the contracts, they have, in fact, become one-way contracts; that is, peasants must deliver their agricultural products as specified in the contract. But the authorities reserve the right not to supply commodities to the peasants as specified in the contract. Even when they provide the essential commodities, the supplies are carried out in a mechanical manner, and with small quantities. At times, no commodities are available.

Last year, peasants in many areas delivered their agricultural products in accordance with contract provisions. But so far, no sugar or fabric has been provided to them. A peculiar phenomenon has happened in Vietnam: The government's indebtedness to peasants. Vietnamese papers have reported that the state owed the Chau Giang District's people 10 million dong, and no payment has been made. By 22 June 1984, the state still owed 6 of the district's villages 433 quintals of urea, and the Chau Giang District administration still had to supply the jute-growing people with 6,000 meters of cloth.

Many Vietnamese refugees have also talked about the highly disorganized management of Vietnam's agricultural economy, especially regarding the procurement of agricultural products and the distribution of agricultural material supplies.

Vietnam's annual chemical fertilizer imports, nominally managed by the Agricultural Supply General Corporation, are, in fact, jointly managed by the food, domestic trade, foreign trade, food industry, and public health

sectors. Those sectors forced peasants to barter agricultural products that they needed against the chemical fertilizers that they were supplied with. Some sectors have even used chemical fertilizers to barter for handicraft and fine art products. This bartering process has led to the situation in which the peasants, who really need chemical fertilizers, were not adequately supplied, but handicraftsmen, who have no need of chemical fertilizers, had plenty to sell at a high price on the free market. As a result, very large amounts of chemical fertilizers have found their way to the free market. Furthermore, the Vietnamese authorities' supplies of chemical fertilizers to the peasants are not based on weight, but on the number of sacks. Those sacks, already underweight when leaving the factories, were also pilfered during transportation. Large amount of misappropriate and pilfered chemical fertilizers were also found on sale on the free market. Because the peasants seriously lacked chemical fertilizers for crop cultivation, they had to buy more at a high price on the free market. This way of doing things has caused serious losses to the Vietnamese economy.

In addition, regarding procurement of agricultural products, a nasty problem still lingers: Keen competitiveness in procuring products with high potential profits; and unwillingness, even avoidance, in procuring those products with little potential profits. Because peanuts transactions yield high profits, the agricultural, domestic trade, foreign trade, and food industry sectors fiercely, even forcibly, compete with one another in procuring them, thus depriving peasants of part of their profits and forcing them to sell products in excess of set quotas. As for those agricultural products with little potential profits, such as jute and rush, no sector is willing to procure them. This procurement method has led to a plethora of unwanted products, the inability to expand reproduction, and lack of improvement in the peasants' living conditions. Because the lingering problems in Vietnam's agriculture are rather serious, they cannot be expected to be resolved on a short-term basis.

When speaking about a possible way out for Vietnam's agricultural production, especially grain production, in the future, as well as the lasting diet difficulties of the Vietnamese people, many Vietnamese refugees shook their heads in despair, seeing no light at the end of the tunnel.

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AGRICULTURE

HA SON BINH OVERCOMES FLASHFLOOD CONSEQUENCES

OW251206 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 Nov 84

[Article by Nguyen Trong Tho, chairman of the Ha Son Binh Provincial People's Committee: "Ha Son Binh Overcomes Natural Calamity Consequences, Restores Production, and Stabilizes People's Livelihood," "recently" sent to the Voice of Vietnam]

[Text] In the past few years, particularly in 1976, 1978, 1980 and 1983, early and late torrential rains caused serious waterlogging and flooding over large areas. However, the recent, sudden torrential rains in Ha Son Binh were unprecedented. A record 500 mm plus of rainfall was recorded across the province over a 24-hour period of driving rain, from 0700 on 9 November [0000 GMT on 8 November] to 0700 on 10 November [0000 GMT on 9 November], with 600-700 mm rainfall in a number of districts. In addition to heavy rains, whirlwinds were also noted in the districts of Thuong Tin, Phu Xuyen, My Duc, Lac Son, and Lac Thuy. Waterlogging, flashfloods, and vortexes have caused very great damage to the people's production and livelihood. A total of 35,000 hectares of ripening 10th-month rice was submerged along with over 6,000 hectares of the winter crop, more than 300 hectares of newly-sown seedlings for the 5th-month-spring rice, and 380 hectares of cassava.

Faced with a great challenge, the Ha Son Binh provincial party organization and nationality peoples have valiantly and perseveringly coped with the natural calamity, upheld the spirit of solidarity and mutual assistance, and are determined to protect production and the people's property and lives, thus minimizing the damage somewhat.

With 20,000 kw promptly supplied by the central government, 110 of the 117 electric pumping stations have been put into operation to combat waterlogging, draining away tens of millions of cubic meters of water daily. The entire dike system separating large paddy areas and all major communications lines have been safely protected. However, given the extremely great magnitude of the waterlogging and flooding, its consequences on Ha Son Binh production and the people's livelihood are very grave, and may linger well into many coming crop seasons. For the immediate future, the first impact on the flood-stricken areas is a 3-month food shortage, lack of fodder for the buffalo and cattle in the wintertime, many cooperatives deprived of potato seeds for next year's crop, and a serious lack of rice seeds for the coming 5th-month-spring rice crop and the 1985 10th-month rice crop.

Given the serious damage and difficulties resulting from the natural calamity, the current, pressing tasks of the Ha Son Binh party organizations and nationality peoples are upholding the tradition of stalwart revolutionary struggle, the spirit of collective mastery of every locality, unit, family, and persons, and the reliance, on the main, on one's own capabilities; striving to promote solidarity and mutual assistance; devoting all capabilities of all sectors and echelons of the state, collectives, and the people, to overcoming the consequences of the floods and flash floods. This is in order to meet two requirements: One, stabilizing the people's and cadres' livelihood mainly through production and self-supporting means, preventing disorganization in daily activities, staving off the possible rice shortage or penury during the pre-harvest period, especially in the flood-stricken areas; and two, again taking the initiative in the coming crops; continuing to plant all the winter crops that still can be grown within the growing period; sowing rice seeds for the 5th month-spring rice crop in time and in sufficient quantities; accelerating the cultivation of the main winter-spring crops and secondary crops; urgently repairing the damaged water conservancy projects; and planting, without fail, the spring rice in time, in all planned areas and well, so as to achieve high yields.

Ha Son Binh is devoting all its energies to performing some pressing tasks.

First, along with making efforts to harvest the remaining submerged 10th-month rice, it is seeking, by all means, to rapidly drain away the excess water, so as to have more available land for the cultivation of the winter crop, and to sow rice seeds on schedule.

Second, it is using seed multiplying techniques to replant 4,000 hectares of potatoes, 6,000 hectares of the winter legumes, 12,000 hectares of corn, and 7,000 hectares of the winter-spring sweet potatoes, so as to stave off food penury during the preharvest period; practicing dense cultivation of corn on part of the land, and growing azolla to provide feed for domestic animals; and paying attention to inoculating the buffalo and cattle at an early date.

Third, it is launching the solidarity and mutual-assistance movement among the people, in the main, and, with assistance from the collectives and the state, caring for, and stabilizing the people's livelihood in the submerged areas; helping those who have lost their houses and property with lodgings and food, and creating conditions for them so they can carry on production; caring for the sick; practicing of sanitation and preventive work in a timely way so as to prevent epidemics; and stabilizing schooling facilities and providing books and school supplies to children so they can continue their studies.

Fourth, it is providing close guidance on assessing damage so as to ensure just, rational distribution of labor results among the cooperatives; paying attention to the families of war invalids and war dead and cadres encountering difficulties; consolidating the cooperatives; and firmly maintaining public security and order.

The Ha Son Binh party organizations and people express their sincere thanks to the ministries, central-level committees and sectors, enterprises, schools,

and Army units stationed in the locality, for their deep sympathy for an practical assistance to Ha Son Binh Province.

Despite the enormous difficulties, the Ha Son Binh party organization and nationality peoples, with the strength of their solidarity and the assistance of the ministries and sectors, will certainly tide over the obstacles and rapidly stabilize production and normalize their livelihood.

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AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN PAST 10 DAYS REVIEWED

OW211321 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 Nov 84

[Text] Following are the main characteristics of the agricultural production situation in the past 10 days of mid-November.

The northern localities are concentrating efforts on combating waterlogging to save rice and subsidiary crops, rice seedlings, and vegetables and on accelerating the rice harvest, and are actively shifting to production of the next crop.

According to the Statistics General Department, by 15 November the entire country had harvested nearly 826,000 hectares of 10th-month rice, or 26.9 percent of the planted acreage. In particular, the northern localities harvested nearly 69,000 hectares, or 52.7 percent of the planted acreage. At the same time, these localities actively plowed the fields for planting of 5th-month rice and rice seedlings while stepping up the planting of the winter crop. Despite obstacles created by last week's rainfall and waterlogging, by 15 November the localities had plowed nearly 140,000 hectares of land, at a rate 8.3 percent faster than in the same period last year. By mid-November, the southern provinces had harvested nearly 140,000 hectares of 10th-month rice, sown and transplanted some 110,000 hectares of winter-spring rice, or nearly 150 percent of the acreage cultivated in the same period last year, including more than 100,000 hectares in the Mekong Delta.

By 15 November, the acreage of ricefields infested by harmful insects had reached nearly 12,000 hectares, including 10,000 hectares in Tien Giang Province. According to the Statistics General Department, by 15 November more than 180,000 hectares of vegetables and subsidiary and industrial crops had been planted countrywide, an increase of nearly 10 percent over the same period last year, with the northern localities in particular having planted more than 154,000 hectares of vegetables and subsidiary crops of various varieties. However, as is known, Typhoon No 9 and the heavy rainfall on 9 and 10 November caused heavy damage to agricultural production. According to a report from the Statistics General Department, by 15 November as many as 155,000 hectares of 10th-month rice had been waterlogged, including nearly 35,000 hectares heavily flooded and more than 20,000 hectares of vegetables and subsidiary crops damaged. Particularly Hanoi, Ha Son Binh, Nghe Tinh, Nghia Binh, and other areas were seriously affected. However,

in the past week, localities have concentrated efforts on saving the rice crop, tending vegetables and subsidiary crops, and quickly harvesting the 10th-month rice. As a result, nearly 60,000 hectares of ricefields have been saved from being ruined by waterlogging and many waterlogged ricefields have been harvested, thus reducing the damage in terms of rice yield.

In order to overcome the consequences of flash floods, next week the localities should be more active in drainage work, quickly harvest the 10th-month rice, and create conditions for growing the 5th-month spring rice crop.

Due to rains and waterlogging, a large acreage of 5th-month and early spring rice seedlings has been ruined. Some localities have lost 70 to 80 percent of the grown rice seedlings. For this reason, the plan of a number of localities to grow 5th-month and early spring rice seedlings in low-lying fields will encounter difficulties in terms of having sufficient rice seedlings for transplanting. Thus, to solve the problem, the localities should strive to secure sufficient rice seedlings for low-lying fields.

Currently localities should have a good plan to sow additional rice seedlings in order to avoid a shortage of rice seedlings for the coming transplanting season. Meanwhile, it is necessary to step up the cultivation of vegetables and subsidiary crops at an earlier time in order to protect cattle and other domestic animals from starvation and cold weather during the current winter crop season. The southern provinces should urgently harvest the 10th-month rice to rapidly make the fields available for winter-spring rice cultivation and should tend the transplanted areas.

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AGRICULTURE

NHAN DAN ON PRODUCTION IN CALAMITY-STRICKEN ZONE

BK261615 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Nov 84

[NHAN DAN 15 November editorial: "Rapidly Restore Agricultural Production in Areas Hit by Natural Calamities"]

[Text] Natural calamities that hit a large region from Trung Bo to western Bac Bo have caused extensive losses to our people. Hundreds of thousands of hectares of harvest-ready rice were submerged, not to mention the destruction of a fairly large area of vegetables and subsidiary food crops. In the face of severe trials, party committee echelons and administrative bodies in the areas hit by natural calamities have promptly and positively led and guided the people in overcoming difficulties with the aim of stabilizing and restoring production and life. Working day and night and sharing the people's woes, party cadres and members have upheld the sense of responsibility and spirit of wholeheartedly serving the people. Undaunted by difficulties, cooperative members and people of all walks of life have valiantly saved their crops and property as well as those belonging to the collectives and the state, rebuilt houses, and provided assistance to one another in time of need. Millions of laborers have patiently braved the chilly water to grope for one ear of paddy at a time or spent all their times guarding and strengthening dikes and culverts threatened by abnormally high floodwaters.

The product contract system has once again proven its exceedingly important effect in enhancing the sense of responsibility and order of the working people. In all the areas struck by natural calamities, from Nghia Binh and Phu Khanh to Ha Son Binh and Hanoi, a resolute and courageous struggle has truly been put up to overcome the serious consequences. This is another specific manifestation of Vietnamese revolutionary heroism and of the working people's spirit of collective mastery.

The key emergency task now facing the areas hit by natural calamities is to rapidly restore agricultural production. Good performance of this task also contributes to stabilizing the people's life. It is urgent to fully reap the submerged rice, vegetables, and subsidiary food crops. Due to very heavy rains, a lot of water still remains in the ricefields, and the water is receding slowly, especially in low-lying areas. To fully reap the ripened rice plantings and reduce the floodwater affecting the young rice plantings it is required that every cooperative and every district rationally

organize labor and fully mobilize all means to carry out field work in a concentrated, resolute, and extremely urgent manner. Efforts must be made to overcome hesitation in reaping or saving the deeply submerged rice crop; for it should be understood that the rice saved, if unsuitable for human consumption, can be used as animal feed, and that the rice saved, fully or partially, will help reduce the grain shortage. Rice should be saved from the floodwaters, the sooner the better. Therefore, the organization of labor must be placed under highly flexible guidance. All the existing labor forces, including students and soldiers, must be mobilized for reaping the waterlogged rice crop; localities that have finished harvest work should help others finish theirs; and labor should be arranged for helping families of fallen heroes and war invalids and labor-deficient families reap their rice.

An important task at present is that as soon as floodwater recedes and the soil emerges, winter vegetables and subsidiary food crops that are still in season must be immediately planted. Now is still the seasonal period for planting potatoes. All district must guide cooperatives in making full use of seed for planting in areas where the water has receded, and moving potato seed from exceedingly low-lying areas to higher areas for planting.

After the water has receded, to rapidly restore the growth of vegetables and subsidiary food crops it is necessary to cover their roots with loose and dry earth while applying additional chemical fertilizer. For some river-side sandbar areas and areas specializing in corn cultivation that have sustained losses, additional corn seed of the VL-1 strain or other crops should be planted immediately in order to fully utilize land. It is necessary to protect the remaining vegetable and bean areas and care for duckweed in order to prolong its harvest season. Adequate seed and technical supplies should be prepared for vigorously planting spring corn and sweet potato and cultivating at an early date spring-summer vegetables and beans on large areas in order to have grain and food in the off-season months.

Right now, party committee echelons and administrative bodies must exert close guidance over production in the 5th-month spring crop season and prepare enough seed, fertilizer, and insecticides. All localities, after assessing the damage done to the rice seedling areas, must formulate plans to encourage floodfree areas to sow 5th-month rice seedlings for the flooded areas to transplant after the water recedes, using the 314, Nong Nghiep 75-1, Nong Nghiep 75-3, Nong Nghiep 75-2, C-333, No 2, VN-20, A-3, or Nong Nghiep 5-B rice variety. Seed of main spring rice strains such as Nong Nghiep 8 may also be sown in order to have seedlings for companion cropping in low-lying ricefields not fully transplanted with 5th-month rice seedlings.

Developing the spirit of self-reliance and self-strengthening, all localities must resolve the rice seed problem by themselves for sowing in accordance with the crop cultivation schedule. All measures--such as effecting mutual assistance among various areas or exchanging rice for consumption for rice seed from among the people--must be taken to promptly obtain enough rice seed and hence, seedlings for transplanting on the entire acreage.

The electricity, communication, supply and communications and transportation sectors are responsible for supporting the localities' efforts to prevent and control floods and to save the rice and subsidiary food crops.

This year, the failure of the rice crop destined for use as seed in the flooded areas will have an adverse impact on next year's 10th-month crop. All localities not affected by natural calamities must pay attention to carefully reaping rice for use as seed of the Moc Tuyan, Bao Thai Lun, and glutinous Nong Nghiep 27 varieties in order to help the flood-stricken areas in next year's 10th-month crop season.

To restore production it is necessary to care for the life of the working people. Careful attention must be given to protecting the people's health during these hard days, controlling natural calamities, and preventing epidemics and diseases. At the same time, efforts must be made to take good care of cattle in order to ensure draft power.

It is now more necessary than ever to promote the spirit of mutual assistance in overcoming difficulties among villagers and cooperative members and especially to encourage help for families of fallen heroes and war invalids. Every cooperative and every district, upholding the spirit of self-reliance and self-strengthening and neither relying on the higher echelons nor waiting for subsidies, must do their best and promote the spirit of collective mastery in accelerating the restoration and development of production. Cooperatives, districts, and provinces not affected by natural calamities should strive to step up agricultural production by applying intensive cultivation to a high degree in the 5th-month spring crop season; increase the productivity output of rice, subsidiary food crops, and industrial plants to make up for the losses sustained by the stricken areas; ensure that products are collected and delivered promptly and carefully; and carry out distribution satisfactorily during the 10th-month crop season.

With the spirit of collective mastery and by developing the combined strength, the entire country, including the areas hit by natural calamities, can minimize losses, rapidly restore agricultural production, and make really good preparations for the 5th-month spring crop in order to make up for the losses and stabilize the people's life.

CSO: 4209/80

AGRICULTURE

NHAN DAN ON STATE FARMS' ROLE IN AGRICULTURE

BK281406 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 13 Nov 84

[NHAN DAN 14 November editorial: "State Farms Surge Forward To Play a Leading Role in Agricultural Production"]

[Text] The network of state farms consists of 370 units set up in ecologically different areas, chiefly in the midland and mountainous regions and in Eastern and Western Nam Bo. State farms have undertaken initial efforts to open new lands for expanding cultivated acreage and building new economic zones. Specialized areas for cultivating of long-term industrial crops and fruit trees and for breeding domestic animals and fowl have been and are being set up to provide some of the agricultural products for export, raw materials for the processing industry, and livestock breeding animals--thus making a considerable contribution to the process of building a new life in remote places and linking socioeconomic development with the maintenance of security and national defense.

The state farm network controls and uses 3 percent of the country's total cultivated acreage, and its products account for 6 percent of the gross agricultural output value and 20 percent of agricultural exports. However, generally speaking, the state farm network has developed its production and business activities at a slow pace, and it has yet to become a force playing a leading role in the collectivized and family-based economic sectors and on the agricultural front. Every state farm is provided by the state with land, labor, capital, supplies, and machinery for carrying out production, and its responsibility is to deliver products in accordance with short- or long-term plans. Nevertheless, many units have failed to exploit satisfactorily the existing potentials concerning labor, land, and material-technical bases, and their labor productivity and economic efficiency remain poor.

A number of state farms are unable to determine their production orientations and tasks due to their failure to carry out specific zoning and planning. Their production and business plans are consequently unstable, resulting in waste of land, capital, and labor. For a fairly long period of time, many state farms have failed to carry out strict economic accounting. They have relied heavily on administrative subsidization and lacked initiative in renovating operational methods, causing the poor average production output and volume per cultivated area unit, per laborer, and per invested dong--with an adverse effect on the lives of cadres and workers.

State farms have the urgent tasks of rapidly rearranging their production and business structure, broadly applying various forms of integration and joint business with the collectivized and family-based economic sectors, renovating the mechanism of management, doing away with bureaucratic subsidization, and vigorously shifting to socialist enterprise in order to turn themselves at an early date into a force playing a leading role in agriculture production. To carry out production and business with high productivity, quality, and efficiency it is necessary first of all to review and supplement specific plans and determine production orientations from the start so as to lay the groundwork for formulating plans to develop production based on the four sources of capabilities.

Apart from the intensive and specialized cultivation of long-term industrial crops, fruit trees, and grain crops as well as and livestock breeding, all the state farms have the conditions for carrying out comprehensive business and rationally using labor, land, and the existing material-technical bases to turn out the most diverse range of products and bring about the highest economic results. Any state farm can combine the development of agricultural production with forest exploitation and fish breeding in order to put into effective use all types of lands, water surfaces, and available material-technical bases. If a state farm experiences difficulties in production because it is too large, it must rapidly reorganize production. The land left unused should be turned over to cooperatives and production collectives for management. Cultivable land must definitely not be left fallow in any manner.

Experience shows that state farms that have recorded high productivity and good quality in the raising of hogs and in the cultivation of tea, coffee, rice, corn, jute, sugarcane, and pineapples are those that know how to develop their combined strength in carrying out economic-technical activities and that broaden economic integration and cooperation with both the collectivized and family-based economic sectors and with other units right at the district level in order to expand production. It is necessary to renovate the mechanism of management at an early date by creatively applying the system of end-product contracts with labor groups or laborers, depending on whether the crop is short- or long-term and on each type of livestock; observe the contract system in a uniform manner; and appropriately reward laborers for savings for which they are responsible.

On the basis of the approved production orientations and the state's investment either every year or for a 5-year period, the system of legal norms should be changed to meet the specific characteristics of each state farm. The various sectors in charge must create favorable conditions for the state farms to decide on their own production, technical, and financial plans with the aim of exploiting most satisfactorily the local potentials, broadening economic integration and cooperation, developing production, developing production, improving the lives of cadres and workers, and turning out more products for society. On the basis of fulfilling the obligation to make contributions to the state, state farms should be encouraged to increase rapidly by all means their self-acquired capital and use it for developing production. They should also be encouraged to control their own workforce,

including during the busy period of the crop season; harmoniously reconcile the various economic interests; and, especially, create all the conditions for the working people to develop their right to collective mastery and display creativity in production and economic management.

Furthermore, state farms should be encouraged to participate directly in export with a view to rapidly increasing the volume and quality of marketable agricultural products and, at the same time, making investments for expanding production.

State farms must accelerate the scientific and technological revolution, especially the biological revolution. Active efforts must be made to apply technical innovations in production to ensure that high productivity and economic efficiency will be achieved regardless of the types of crops or livestock involved. State farms must become progressive models in crop cultivation and technical centers for each region and serve as an example for the cooperatives and production collectives to follow in the application of intensive cultivation techniques designed to increase crop yields. It is necessary to promote economic activities undertaken by families of cadres and workers in state farms and guide them in developing in the right direction. This will help improve the lives of cadres and workers and, at the same time, increase the volume of products for society.

Constantly improving the productivity, quality, and production efficiency of state farms to make each state-run agricultural production unit become a model for each area and surge forward to play a leading role in agricultural production is an important task that contributes to advancing agriculture step by step toward large-scale socialist production.

CSO: 4209/80

AGRICULTURE

PROGRESS IN PRC BORDER AREA SEEN DESPITE THREAT

OW020733 Hanoi VNA in English 0709 GMT 2 Dec 84

[Text] Hanoi, 2 Dec (VNA)--Ha Quang, the northernmost district of the mountain province of Cao Bang, shares more than 60 kms of common border with China. During recent years, it has bravely confronted the Chinese multifaceted war of sabotage.

In the Chinese aggressive war in Feb 1975, 15 of its 18 villages were invaded and sustained serious damage. The Chinese destroyed four hydroelectric power stations and pumping stations, demolished many houses, hospitals, offices and schools in the district town and in the villages, leaving more than 1,000 families homeless, killed and took away more than 1,200 draught cattle. As a retaliation for its defeat, Beijing increased its pressure to make life impossible for Ha Quang and elsewhere along the border. To cope with this situation, the local people of all ethnic minorities in the district have closely united to build the defence line to continue their daily farm work while standing ready for a full-scale invasion by the enemy.

The Ha Quang District has two distinct areas: the high land is suitable for maize, soybean and medicinal herbs and the lower area is for paddy and tobacco. The district has raised total crop output to as much as the top year before the war. At some highland co-ops, per hectare rice yield reached 3.8 tons in a crop. Last year, Ha Quang sold 172 tons of soybean, 61 tons of cattle and 7 tons of oil-bearing seed to the state.

Soon after the Chinese aggressive war in 1979, the district concentrated on restoring the hydroelectric power stations and pumping stations destroyed by the enemy. Twelve small and medium hydroelectric power stations have been restored or built during recent years. Most worthy of note was the 200-kw Pac Bo station close to the frontier provides electricity for lighting and for the operation of the pumping station to water hundreds of hectares of cultivated land.

The district town which was virtually razed by the Chinese invaders has been rebuilt in a new place with tens of houses supplied with electricity and running water. It also has a 12-room secondary school built with the assistance of the big hydroelectric power plant now being built on the Da River.

Dozens of kilometers of roads linking the villages together, with the district town and the provincial highway. [As received]

Despite social and natural difficulties, the district has built a health-care system that reaches down to each hamlet. All villages have information and propaganda teams and the district has a cable radio station. Artistic and mobile film projection teams made regular trips to the frontline to entertain the border units.

Ha Quang takes pride in the Pac Bo grotto where President Ho Chi Minh spent his first days after returning to the country in 1941 to lead the revolution. It was from this grotto that the traditional flame was lit for the recent 2nd all-army sports and physical culture festival which opened the 40th anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army (December 22).

CSO: 4200/219

AGRICULTURE

TYPHOON 'AGNES' LEAVES DEATH, DESTRUCTION

OW281041 Hanoi VNA in English 0736 GMT 28 Nov 84

[Text] Hanoi, 28 Nov (VNA)--Typhoon "Agnes", the strongest among the nine storms to hit Vietnam so far this year, ravaged the central coastal province of Nghia Binh on Nov 7, and the accompanying torrential rains wreaked additional havoc to many Red River delta provinces.

In Ha Son Binh and Ha Nam Ninh provinces and in Hanoi, rainfalls were registered at from 400-700 millimetres, the highest ever in this century.

At about the same time, 17 whirlwinds occurred in different places on the coastal area, pulling down many houses, schools, medical stations and warehouses, destroying large areas of crop fields and claiming several deaths and injuries.

In Nghia Binh Province, Typhoon "Agnes" left 59 dead and 115 injured, 34,860 houses demolished, 335 schools, 102 health care stations heavily damaged, 16,800 hectares of crop fields submerged and more than one million coconut trees uprooted. With the help of the northern districts where the wind force was weaker, the population in the stricken districts are quickly returning to normal life. Hoai Nhon District, for example, has donated 200,000 dong, 50 tons of rice and 10,000 tiles as relief to the victims. Tra Bong District has sent 60 house farmers to neighbouring district. The provincial administration, for its part, has supplied 450 tons of rice and 100,000 metres of sheet roofing.

Quang Nam-danang, Phu Khanh, Thuan Hai, Gia Lai-Kontum, Darlac and Lam Dong provinces further south have sent rice seedlings and building materials to Nghia Binh. Phu Khanh alone sent two million dong and 30,000 metres of sheet roofing. Lam Dong Province sent 500 cubic metres of timber and 5,000 copybooks.

In the Red River delta in the north, torrential rains caused heavy flooding to 157,800 hectares of near-harvest rice, tens of thousands of hectares of vegetables and subsidiary food crops in Ha Son Binh and Ha Nam Ninh provinces and in Hanoi area. The rains also destroyed many houses and schools, health care stations and warehouses, and caused a number of deaths. Even as the downpour was on, Vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers Vu Dinh Lieu and

leading officials of the agricultural, irrigation and power industries inspected the situation and decided on emergency measures.

The electricity service has supplied an extra 80,000 kw for the operation of the pumps in flooded areas. As a result, within seven days, from November 7-11, 60,000 hectares of rice were saved from immersion and the figure has now exceeded 100,000 hectares.

The central seed, vegetables and fruit company under the Ministry of Agriculture has supplied the stricken areas with more than 300 tons of paddy seeds and 25 tons of vegetable seeds.

In Ha Son Binh, the hardest hit province in the north, 16 persons lost their lives, 35,000 hectares of autumn rice and 10 hectares of vegetables were ruined. With the efforts of the local population, within six days from November 11-16, 12,400 ha of flooded paddy were harvested and the farmers are now planting 10,000 ha of vegetables to make up for part of the losses.

In Thanh Hoa, the heavy rains swelled the local rivers and breached many portions of dykes causing immersion of 21 out of the 24 villages in Thach Thanh District, leaving 28,000 people homeless, destroying 4,500 hectares of autumn rice, and nearly 1,000 hectares of other food crops.

In the whole of the province, 20,400 hectares of autumn rice and 7,800 hectares of subsidiary crops were lost and thousands of schools and a great number of houses were destroyed or submerged.

Heavy rains in Hanoi on November 9 caused the immersion of 20,000 hectares of autumn rice, 12,000 hectares of other crops and 800 hectares of rice seedlings. More than 60 wards inside the city were flooded causing substantial material damage to the state and population. The electricity service quickly reactivated 47 submerged transformer stations.

In the provinces of Hai Hung, Ha Bac, and Ha Nam Ninh, around Hanoi, contingency plans were adopted to drain flood waters, harvest the autumn rice and plant short-term vegetables and subsidiary food crops immediately after the fields were drained of water.

CSO: 4200/219

AGRICULTURE

BRIEFS

NEW RICE STRAINS SUPPLIED--Hanoi, 30 Nov (VNA)--The crop seeds company of Ho Chi Minh City has so far this year supplied 1,800 tons of new rice strains to peasants in suburban districts. The new strains, named Mahsuri, Ir 8423 and IRI324, are pest-resistant and suited to aluminous and saline soil. The company has increased its investment as well as its supplies of fertilizers and insecticides to treble the areas for the multiplication of these new paddy hybrids compared with last year. As a result, this year the company has met 70 percent of the demand for new rice strains of the peasants in the city's suburban districts. The company has cooperated with seeds farms in Mekong delta provinces to exchange new rice strains and has now prepared hundreds of tons of rice hybrids for the current winter rice crop. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0745 GMT 1 Dec 84 OW]

HO CHI MINH CITY IRRIGATION--Hanoi, 21 Nov (VNA)--The irrigation works built in Ho Chi Minh City in the past nine years are supplying water to 37,800 hectares bringing the total of tilled land in the city area to 100,000 hectares compared to 59,000 in 1975. They can also drain 64,000 hectares of ricefields affected by sea water or acidity. The newly built major works have helped expand the areas devoted to high-yield rice, vegetables and export industrial plants in the suburban districts. About 10,000 hectares of aluminous soil have been made arable for the growing of industrial plants for export. In addition, 6,000 hectares of vegetables are supplied with water. Rice yield increased from 1.7 tons per hectare before liberation in 1975 to more than two tons in recent years. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 1649 GMT 21 Nov 84 OW]

HA SON BINH HARVEST--According to the paper HA SON BINH, to overcome the aftermath of the recent calamities, various localities in Na Son Binh Province have mobilized more than 100,000 people daily to save rice from flooding. In Chuong My District, 21,000 people have taken to the fields and have managed to harvest 230-300 hectares of rice every day. In My Duc District, where many ricefields were submerged under more than 1 meter of water, people have used wooden boats and barges made of bamboo and banana trees to carry paddy to high ground. In Phu Xuyen District, more than 400 hectares have been reaped each day. All the districts have authorized the general education schools to close for a week to allow students and faculty to participate in saving the submerged rice. [Excerpt] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 22 Nov 84 BK]

AN GIANG FLOOD CASUALTY--More than 100,000 hectares of summer-fall and 10th-month rice were damaged by the recent floods in An Giang Province. The local authorities have moved almost 2,000 families and 25,360 metric tons of grain to higher ground and safe warehouses. The prolonged rains in late October caused floods and flash floods in many areas of the province. The province is mobilizing the people to stabilize their daily lives promptly, while urging various sectors and echelons to take measures to restore production, especially the winter-spring crop production. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 27 Nov 84 BK]

MINH HAI PADDY--To date, Minh Hai Province has procured 215,000 metric tons of paddy, exceeding the plan by 5,000 metric tons or 45,000 metric tons more than the corresponding period last year. The province has overcome numerous difficulties in material supply and transportation and has delivered grain to state granaries amounting to almost 90 percent of its plan norms. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 29 Nov 84 BK]

CSO: 4209/80

HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

DO MUOI ADDRESSES HANOI CONSTRUCTION COLLEGE CONFERENCE

OWO21241 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Nov 84

[Text] The Hanoi Construction College held its seventh scientific conference, on 26-27 November, to review its 1983-84 scientific research work and to discuss guidelines for scientific developments for 1985-86.

Comrade Do Muoi, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, attended and addressed the conference.

A total of 145 reports and scientific information bulletins were presented at the conference. Annually, the construction college has treated about 20 subjects for ministerial and state levels and some 50 subjects for the grassroots level, and carried out hundreds of scientific research contracts. The scientific subjects manifest diversity and practicality in various fields, among them new structure research, foundations, and construction physics. Many research subjects have been applied to production realities, yielding high economic and technical efficiency.

Addressing the conference, Comrade Do Muoi, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, praised the cadres, manual workers, and personnel of the construction college for their many efforts that have led to numerous achievements in teaching and scientific research in support of production and construction and in college organization and management work.

Comrade Do Muoi reminded the participants that, in the coming period, the college's scientific and technical work must be closely linked to, and better serve, the two strategic tasks and four general objectives set forth in the Fifth CPV National Congress resolution. He also reminded them to thoroughly grasp the party and state positions and policies and to contribute to satisfactorily implementing the 1984-85 plan and making preparations for the 1986-90 plan.

CSO: 4209/80

HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

HO CHI MINH CITY PEOPLE'S COUNCIL MEETS

BK251248 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 22 Nov 84

[Text] The Ho Chi Minh City People's Council recently met to decide on measures to step up the emulation drive to successfully fulfill the 1984 plan and prepare for the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the city's liberation. As of late October, the city had fulfilled nearly 85 percent of the industrial output value plan for the whole year. Implementing the resolution of the party Central Committee's sixth plenum, the city has continued to promulgate temporary regulations to create proper conditions for state enterprises to fulfill their planned targets, especially in production of key products that have high economic value, and to prepare supplies and raw materials for 1985. On the other hand, the city has closely guided all sectors and localities in ensuring the quality of products and placing most products under state control.

In cases in which there is a serious shortage of power for production, the city has instructed the various mass organizations to step up action to economize on and reduce power losses. At the same time, the power and industrial sectors have been directed to work out plans to regulate power supply in the production sector according to their power supply capability and to supply power on a priority basis to the establishments that produce goods for export and essential consumer goods.

CSO: 4209/80

HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

BRIEFS

HIGH-VOLTAGE SUBSTATION--Hanoi, 24 Nov (VNA)--The Vietnamese Electricity Administration has put into commission a 220-kv substation and a transmission line, the first operational substation and line of such a capacity in northern Vietnam. It is transmitting electricity over a distance of 80 kms from the Pha Lai Thermo-Electric Power Plant, the biggest of its kind in Vietnam at present, to Ha Dong town on the outskirts of the capital city. [Text]
[Hanoi VNA in English 0734 GMT 24 Nov 84 OW]

CSO: 4200/219

LIGHT INDUSTRY

BRIEFS

MORE FOOD PROCESSING MACHINES--Hanoi, 28 Nov (VNA)--The Hanoi food processing equipment plant under the Food Ministry is quickly increasing its production to supply the districts. Since early this year, in addition to dozens of tons of spare parts the plant has supplied the districts in various provinces with 70 rice husking systems with capacity ranging from 3.2 to 15 tons per shift. Especially, the plant has turned out 16 such systems of higher quality for Kampuchea. It has also designed and built 2.5 ton-per-hour cereals-drying machines fuelled by rice-husk. Recently, it has successfully trial-produced rice huskers which can husk 150 tons of paddy a day, the biggest manufactured in Vietnam to date. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1541 GMT 28 Nov 84 OW]

HANOI SPINNING MILL--Hanoi, 21 Nov (VNA)--A cotton spinning mill built in Hanoi with financial assistance from the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and Belgium was handed over to the Vietnamese authorities at a ceremony here today. The mill has 100,000 spindles and an annual capacity of over 8,000 tons of yarn. Present at the ceremony were Tran Quang Sung, minister of light industry; Le At Hoi, vice chairman of the Hanoi people's committee; Dr Gert-Heinrich Ahrens, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the FRG; Lodovico Masetti, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Italy, Count Serge Robiano, charge d'affairs a.i. of Belgium; and Dr Clemens Broer, director general of UNIONOATEX, which sponsored the project and signed the building contract. Also present were representatives of the Construction Service, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the Foreign Ministry, and other concerned branches of production. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1640 GMT 27 Nov 84 OW]

CSO: 4200/219

LABOR

NHAN DAN EDITORIAL HAILS COALMINERS DAY

BK210353 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 9 Nov 84

[NHAN DAN 10 November editorial: "Excavate Much Coal for the Fatherland"]

[Text] Our coalminers' traditional day falls on 12 November. This is a great opportunity to educate coalminers who have a history of stalwart revolutionary struggle and have made great contributions to the construction and defense of the socialist fatherland. This is also an occasion to strongly encourage coalminers to surmount all difficulties and dangers and emulate in productive labor to excavate much coal for the fatherland.

The coal sector, one of the most important industrial sectors in our country, has matured considerably with more material and technical bases that are being modernized step by step, and with a body of up to 100,000 cadres and workers. This work force is being assigned more young workers who follow their forefathers' steps into open and underground mining areas to devote all their efforts to coal mining.

Among the general efforts, many collectives and coalminers who have typified the productive labor emulation movement for high productivity, quality, and effectiveness stand out. Among them is the Mao Khe coalmine which has fulfilled the state plan for 5 years in a row with an annual increase of 10 percent over the preceding year.

By rearranging production, considering the improvement of the coalminers' living conditions as important as production, and securing positive economic integration, the Mao Khe coalmine authorities have satisfactorily secured all the factors for production. In the past 10 months, the coalmine achieved 80.8 percent of the annual plan for raw coal and 81.6 percent for clean coal. By using their own potentials, the Coc Sau coalminers have created new balances of equipment and machinery. Now they are emulating in implementing the targets of loading, unloading, and shipping a daily average of 6,500 metric tons of coal, and from 24,000 to 25,000 cubic meters of overburden with a determination to fulfill the 1984 plan norm for excavating 1.5 million metric tons of coal and stripping 6 million cubic metres of dirt.

In the mining area, quite a number of workers have done their utmost to produce as much coal as possible for the country. Such champions of the coal sector as the tunnel digging team of Nguyen Duc Vu which has fulfilled its duty to open a mine for 1985, and the rock shaft team of Ha Van Hong in the Mong Duong mine construction and assembling company which has stripped 12.6 cubic metres of rock daily--the present highest record for manually stripping rock. The shaft digging team of Leu Vu Dieu in the Mao Khe mine has fulfilled the entire 1984 plan in 10 months. The drilling team No 4 of Tieu Thuan Ich in the Coc Sau mine has fulfilled the plan for drilling 333,000 metres 72 days ahead of schedule and has agreed to drill an additional 8,000 metres in the remaining months of the year. The truck group of Le Khac Thanh in the Cam Pha truck transportation company has used its four assigned large trucks to move more than 146,000 cubic metres of dirt and rock, fulfilling the 5-year 1981-85 plan in only 3 1/2 years.

These outstanding individuals and units who manifest collective mastery, creative dynamism, and good behavior toward disciplined and highly productive labor, have further glorified the coalminers' revolutionary traditions.

However, the coal production sector faces big difficulties. Coal production is seriously declining, and the annual mining plan has not been well implemented as regards coal extraction, rock stripping, shaft preparation, and export.

Apart from objective causes such as the failure of sectors to do their utmost in cooperation with the coal sector, there are subjective causes resulting from the coal sector's shortcomings in delaying the arrangement of production, in failing to take the initiative and be flexible in production and business, in neglecting managerial work in some units, in making inadequate and irregular preparations for production, in properly emphasizing the education of workers to give them a sense of organization and discipline, and good behavior toward labor, and in overlooking the improvement of workers' living conditions.

Uncle Ho said: Coal producers are just like enemy-fighting troops. Implementing this teaching, cadres and workers of the coal sector have always considered themselves combatants on an important front of the national economy. They have strived to work and practice thrift. All other related sectors are duty bound to correctly implement their tasks of providing rear service to the coal sector or to cooperate with the coal sector to accelerate such tasks as preparations for mining, production, shipment, consumption, and stabilization of workers' livelihood.

From now until the end of the year, the coal sector is still faced with heavy duties. It will remain a major sector in the next few years. The economic sectors and the people are demanding much coal daily. The weather at the year's end is favorable for coal mining. The advanced models in the coal sector have given us valuable experiences in overcoming difficulties to properly implement the plan.

The body of coalmining cadres and workers who are very experienced and creative and whose collective mastery is well developed and material and spiritual lives well taken care of, will constitute a considerable force in changing the present situation of coal production.

Let all cadres and workers in coal mines develop their glorious traditions, emulate in working in a technical and discipline manner and with high productivity, and extract much coal for the country. At the same time, remain vigilant and ready to fight so as to contribute to the construction and defense of the socialist fatherland.

CSO: 4209/80

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECREE ON TEACHER AWARDS

BK290459 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 25 Nov 84

[Text] The Council of Ministers recently issued a decree establishing the titles of "people's teacher" and "outstanding teacher." The full text of the decree is as follows:

To practically enhance the position of teachers in society and to encourage them to refine their revolutionary quality and develop their ability so that they can contribute ever more effectively to the cause of education, pursuant to resolution No 73-HDBT dated 12 July 1983 of the Council of Ministers on educational work in the years ahead and at the request of the minister of education, the minister of higher and vocational education, the director of the vocational training general department, the chairman of the central committee for the protection of mothers and children, and the head of the party Central Committee Emulation Department, the Council of Ministers decrees:

Article 1. The titles of "people's teacher" and "outstanding teacher" to be awarded to teachers, baby-sitters, and professors who have contributed significantly to the cause of education are hereby established.

Article 2. Criteria of Titles

1. The "people's teacher" title is to be awarded to teachers who are loyal to the country and socialism, ardently love their profession and students, possess exemplary ethics and outstanding pedagogical skills, have rendered great services to the cause of education, enjoy extensive prestige in their sector and in society, and are respected by their students and colleagues and the people.
2. The "outstanding teacher" title is to be awarded to teachers who are loyal to the country and socialism, love their profession and students, possess exemplary ethics and pedagogical skills, have rendered great services to the cause of education, and are trusted by their students and colleagues and the people.

Article 3. Awardees of these titles will receive a certificate and a reward in cash and in kind.

Article 4. The chairman of the Council of Ministers will decide to recognize the people's teachers and outstanding teachers on the recommendation of the title examining board. The composition of the title examining board will be decided by the chairman of the Council of Ministers. The awarding of the "people's teacher" and "outstanding teacher" titles will be considered and announced once a year on the Vietnam teachers day, 20 November. It is the duty of responsible organs to conduct an investigation and request the chairman of the Council of Ministers to issue a decision nullifying the "people's teacher" and "outstanding teacher" titles awarded to any found to be no longer worthy of these titles.

Article 5. This decree will become effective from the day it is promulgated.

All ministers, chairman of various state commissions, heads of other organs of the Council of Ministers, and the chairmen of the people's committees of all provinces and those cities and special zones directly subordinate to the central government are responsible for the implementation of this decree. After discussing it with various organs concerned, the minister of education, the minister of higher and vocational education, the director of the vocational training general department, and the chairman of the Central Committee for the protection of omthers and children must direct the implementation of this decree.

CSO: 4209/80

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

PHAM VAN DONG ADDRESS TO TEACHERS, PART I

OW022259 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Nov 84

[Part I of address by SRV Council of Ministers Chairman Pham Van Dong at the 20 November Hanoi Meeting Marking Vietnam Teachers' Day--read by announcer]

[Text] Dear friends: In his address to teachers and teaching cadres on the occasion of Vietnam Teachers' Day, 20 November 1984, Chairman Pham Van Dong of the Council of Ministers dealt with four issues: 1) Educational objectives; 2) educational content and methods; 3) the teaching corps; and 4) the educational system. Following is the part on educational objectives, contents, and methods:

1. Educational Objectives

General education, and education as a whole, is aimed at training citizens endowed with love of country and socialist ideals, and with the virtues, knowledge, and technical know-how to properly perform any job, in conformity with the division of labor in each locality, as well as in the entire country, and with the level of socioeconomic development during a given period in our country.

National education must train, for our society, combatants for the building and defending of the fatherland, who are willing to go anywhere in the country to serve the fatherland and socialism. They must create new material and cultural values; expand the range of jobs; make the best use of manpower, land, forest, and marine resources, and all production capacities in each locality, large or small, and in the entire country to contribute to the socialist, revolutionary cause of the nation. The material values encompass all fields of national economy, and constitute decisive factors for the development of human society. The cultural values encompass science and technology, literature and arts, and exert an increasingly large impact on the economy, civilization, and life.

Education so conceived is of fundamental significance, because it constitutes a very important integral part of the strategy of socioeconomic development, and in the longer view, in the final analysis, man is the ultimate determinant of all. Such an education has a topical objective because, in the current situation, all people of an age to labor, must work to create

progressively fine products, and increase productivity, quality, and economic results, while our schools must develop their positive impact in this undertaking. This is the only way to overcome the immediate difficulties in developing our economy and society, and advancing to fulfill the tasks in the initial stage of the transitional period.

In the next stage, since our country's requirements and potential will increase, our socioeconomic objectives will be higher, the division of labor will further expand, and many new sectors and jobs will appear, along with advanced industry. Our educational level, content, and method must be raised accordingly.

Currently, we can, and must, turn our general education schools into places which can provide basic knowledge, comprehensive technology, vocational guidance, and job training. The process of teaching and learning, each subject and study session, and all scholastic activities must, together with the family's and society's influence, help our students develop a love for country and socialism, the pride of being Vietnamese, a feeling of attachment to the environment, and the patience to wait until they can perform a useful job and contribute all their fervor, professional skills, and mind to the fatherland. The seal of our general education schools must leave a deep mark on our young students' hearts, imbuing them with this ideal. Such an educational objective requires the raising of our general education level in all aspects, from teaching ideals and virtues to cultivating cultural knowledge and production skills.

Under our educational system as a whole, after graduating from a basic general school, a general education middle schools, a vocational schools, a vocational middle school, or a college, a student must always be prepared to properly perform a job necessary for his locality and his country. At the same time, he must be able to progress and become a good, or very good, laborer. This is the combination of all results of his study and training, as well as the comprehensive manifestation of the quality and effectiveness of our education.

In the process of its development, our Vietnamese nation needs many skilled and talented people to ensure that the country adopts a good direction, steps, and a creative method of doing things during and after the period of transition to socialism. Since our party's emergence, our people's revolutionary struggle has been a process of creatively applying Marxims-Leninism to achieve success in the August Revolution, in the past resistance wars, and in socialist revolutionary work over the past 10 years.

The current situation urges our people and our young generation to further develop their creative capabilities, in accordance with our party's clear-sighted line, so that in the coming years, they will be able to achieve more rapid economic and social progress, and boost, on this basis, the country's socialist industrialization, successfully building socialism.

To achieve this objective is to effect a profound change in our whole national education, and uphold the strategic importance of our educational work

and the social role of our educational workers. This objective is entirely contrary to the concept of looking at education only as a means of embarking on a literary career. We must reform the motive and attitude of our students regarding education, and eliminate the concept that only a college education can ensure a bright future, and open a wide horizon of development for all youth under our regime.

Our schools must educate our students in such a way that, after graduation, they can become productive laborers and perform a useful job. At the same time, our schools must communicate the enthusiasm for learning, and teach them how to further their studies, because science and technology, art and letters have no end, and man's vitality is boundless.

The results obtained from studies at school or at college can be regarded as an initial asset for a laborer. The study and knowledge gained after graduation will extend over a longer period, and are even more important than those acquired at school, especially in the present era, when science and technology, as well as the requirements for economic and cultural development, are rapidly evolving.

We must gradually turn our Vietnamese society into one in which all people are eager to learn, have conditions for learning, and can help each other in their studies in order to become socialist collective masters, and advance the socialist undertaking unceasingly and steadily. As pointed out by Marx, the free development of each person constitutes a condition for all people. Let the entire people and society labor enthusiastically and creatively, and indulge themselves in learning and making progress. Such a beautiful and noble way of life will help eliminate all bad manifestations, such as the desire for vainglory and lowly ambitions. Currently, in the struggle to achieve this educational objective, our schools must guide the thoughts and deeds of our teachers and students in repulsing all negative phenomena at school, and must contribute to countering all negative phenomena in our society. Meanwhile, along with economic development, social changes in a wholesome direction will exert a positive impact on our schools.

In ensuring that productive laborers properly perform a job necessary for the country and suitable for each stage of socioeconomic development, and seek to educate themselves during their entire life in order to make constant progress, our education is playing an extremely important role in our people's current and future revolutionary work and is contributing to creating a society endowed with a prosperous livelihood, a beautiful lifestyle and environment, and a civilized and happy life. Such people are the very socialist people who, as Uncle Ho put it, are first needed to build socialism.

2. Educational Contents and Methods

The educational objectives mentioned above require our educational content and method to be improved accordingly. In all its forms, education, whether

it is general, ethical, intellectual, aesthetic, physical, or labor must involve comprehensive technical education and vocational guidance, in order to lay firm groundwork for the student before taking up an appropriate job.

The content of vocational education at the middle and college levels must be associated with productive labor, and must train people capable of creating new material and cultural values, and of improving themselves in all aspects.

General education must train our students to cultivate the sentiments, thoughts and lifestyle suitable to the communist world concept and philosophy of life, the essence of which consists of duties and responsibilities to the fatherland, the people, and the nation's revolutionary work.

Since productive labor is man's reason for life, joy, and value, and the source of all people's economic and social life, general education schools must teach our students to love their work in order to become skilled productive laborers. That is the primary quality of those who are collective masters.

General education must offer our students basic, modern, Vietnamese, and practical knowledge, manifested in their attainments and technical skills. Their know-how includes the understanding of culture and sciences oriented to the life, labor, and jobs of all people in our society. Their technical skills include the primary ability to apply their knowledge to life, ranging from exercises to practical training in production, and real participation in productive labor.

General education also covers practical economic know-how, with which our students can begin to get acquainted with economic life and management work. After graduation, they will become life and management work. After graduation, they will become productive laborers, and their know-how and technical skills will be a good basis for achieving professional skills and economic results.

The entire content of general education, as described above, consists in teaching the students of today, who will be productive laborers tomorrow, to know how to gradually master nature, society, and themselves.

General education, at the basic level, must, through intramural and extra-curricula classes, acquaint the students with realities in the district, province, country, world, and universe they are living in; with the past, present, and future of mankind and of their nation; with the true nature of themselves; and with the mission they are called upon to perform in order to make worthy contributions to the people and the country.

Regarding nature, general education must teach our students how to treasure, protect, utilize, and enrich it by from doing little things, such as planting trees instead of destroying them, and tending useful animals instead of killing them, to advancing to create a life setting, where men and nature are harmoniously united, and to build a beautiful, native land for their own life, for the people in their localities, and for future generations.

A student must be proud of, and confident in, man, nature, and his country. As taught by Uncle Ho, as long as our fatherland and people remain, we shall, after vanquishing the U.S. aggressors, rebuild our country 10 times more beautiful than today.

Regarding society, general education must teach our students about the glorious history of our nation, our country's time-honored traditions and civilization, and our people's heroic revolutionary work over the past more than a half century. It must arouse their warm patriotism and an earnest desire to dedicate their hearts and abilities to the building and defense of the fatherland. It must teach them the history of mankind, the process of development of various social systems, and the law of current world development. It must engrave a hatred for capitalism and imperialism deep in their hearts, and bind their sentiments and intelligence to socialism and proletarian internationalism.

Regarding one's self, general education must teach our students about man and his body, thoughts, and behavioral characteristics, so that they know how to protect their health, train their bodies, and prevent disease. It must teach them that the human community and men as individuals are the forces which have made history and that, with the emergence of socialism, man has become the creator and master of his whole life. It must make them understand that productive labor represents man's fundamental, inherent nature, and must teach them to work in a rational and scientific manner, and with increasingly high productivity and effectiveness.

In order to train citizens to perform a job necessary for their localities, general education must be associated with the history, natural conditions, and society in which they live, so that they can even though they are sitting on school benches, live the everyday life of their own folk,

It is necessary to make careful calculations to determine a proper balance between natural and social sciences; between the knowledge of the world and mankind, and that of our country and nation; between the past, present, and future; between the various disciplines of science and labor education, technical education, vocational guidance, and job training; and between education on the tasks of the whole country, and those of the locality.

The content of general education must form a single entity. General schools, especially at the basic level, must be all-encompassing, in order to equip the pupils of 15 years of age or so with the rudiments of knowledge, so that they can take up an occupation if they fail to proceed higher.

The content of general education described above must be mentioned in the curriculum and textbooks, which must be very accurate, simplified, and perfect. We must avoid superfluous and duplicative details and cramming. This is no easy matter, but we may proceed step by step, without seeking immediate perfection, and we can surely do that. The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education, and the Job Training General Department must closely coordinate their efforts, and seek cooperation and assistance from the Vietnam Institute of Science, the Social Sciences

Commission, various art and letters associations, and other organs concerned, in order to complete this very important work.

Once a good educational content is available, educational quality and effectiveness can be achieved, depending on the educational method, which is partly specified in the educational content, curriculum, and textbooks. At the same time, it is very important that the teacher and students in the same class apply a vivid method of teaching and learning.

We have many schools, teachers, and good methods to guide our students in achieving good results. We should recapitulate and popularize good teaching and learning experiences. A good teaching method must help a student make use of his intelligence and physical force in labor, and in any job performed for the locality and the country. Moreover, it must encourage him to indulge in learning, and must open his heart and mind to assimilate knowledge and what is beautiful and interesting in science and technology, as well as in art and literature. It must make him happy to acquire knowledge, and to be infatuated with reading books and with seeking to discover the cultural assets of the nation and of mankind. So, it does not consist of teaching so many things and in making use of all the available textbooks, and does not require the students' memorization of all subjects and lessons. To each a lesson is not to cram the students with knowledge and make them so weary that they will gradually lose interest in learning. But the lesson must provide them something like a useful, pleasant voyage to new spheres, enhance their thought and action, and open the wide horizon of knowledge to encourage them to constantly further their studies.

Our people have this saying: A little learning may lead to wide knowledge. So, a teacher must show his students a good way of learning, and help them develop their intelligence and creative spirit, so they can make constant progress.

The educational method is very important, highly principles, and directly connected with the educational objective of coupling study with practice. All the educational content must be associated with productive labor. Only by engaging in productive labor and applying his knowledge and technical skills acquired from his studies can a student put into practice and master what he has learned. His school can also be a production unit and, depending on his school's capabilities and his locality's conditions, he can assume suitable tasks, such as cultivating crop seeds and animal breeding, growing forests, carrying out minor and medium irrigation projects, producing consumer goods for domestic use and export, and so forth.

Many schools' good experiences have shown that persistent work in the direction of general technical education, vocational guidance, and job training; the organization of teachers and students to directly participate in productive labor and create new material and cultural values; and the proper implementation of the motto of joint state-people work can help our schools increase the effectiveness of training work; make positive contributions to the local and national economies; secure more means and money with which to expand school buildings, purchase more equipment, books, magazines, and school implements; improve the living conditions of teachers and students; and satisfy many requirements for school development.

CSO: 4209/80

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

PHAM VAN DONG ADDRESS TO TEACHERS, PART II

OW030325 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Nov 84

[Final part of address by SRV Council of Ministers Chairman Pham Van Dong at the 20 November Hanoi Meeting Marking Vietnam Teachers' Day--read by announcer]

[Text] 3. Teacher Contingent

To achieve high quality education, we must have a contingent of qualified teachers. Only by bringing about a change for the better in the present teacher contingent and by training, can we ensure proper implementation of the aforementioned educational objectives, contents, and methods, the key education issue, which we must overcome all difficulties to resolve, without fail.

We now have a fairly large teacher contingent, most are good, and many are dedicated and talented, having taught with devotion despite difficult conditions and privations, and made worthy contributions to the training of the younger generation. Eloquent proof is the outstanding achievements of our students in international contests. Our teacher contingent must now advance further, unceasingly strive to achieve progress, in order to meet our nation's educational requirements.

It is our people's tradition to respect, and uphold, the teaching profession. Let males and females at all schools show themselves to be worthy of the noble position of their profession. The entire education sector and all schools should actively carry out further professional and personal training programs for male and female teachers, especially in ethics.

Cam Binh's good experience is summarized in this motto, "To become good teachers, you must first be good students." All ministries, general departments, the Voice of Vietnam, and the television station should create conditions, and provide facilities, for male and be enhanced [as received], and arrangements made to suit the requirements in each locality, especially in the northern border areas, the Mekong Delta region, and the Central Highlands. For those areas, teachers must be sent in to assist, while local teachers must be further trained. Policies must be devised to recruit qualified, ethical students to normal schools. The Education Ministry must make great efforts, and colleges must help the general education sector train

male and female teachers so that, in a few years, we will have sufficient teachers for politics, general technologies, foreign languages, physical education, labor, military, esthetics, vocational guidance, and vocational training, in order to ensure systematic popularization of education, and enhance general education qualitatively.

Physical education, labor, military, esthetics, vocational guidance, and vocational training, in order to ensure systematic popularization of education, and enhance general education qualitatively.

Another issue, which must be resolved, is teacher standardization. In the past, our country had many pedagogical systems. We must now make further efforts so that, in time, all our teachers will meet the prescribed training standards, and we shall reach the stage in which higher education, and then college level, is required for level-I teachers, and level-II and level-III teachers must be teachers' college graduates. We should particularly concern ourselves with promoting kindergarten teachers and child care workers. Standardizing and homogenizing the contingent of teachers, and localizing teachers in ethnic-minorities areas, is a common issue in the training task, which should be satisfactorily resolved for the entire education system, from kindergarten to post-college education.

All party committee echelons, all provincial, municipal, district, precinct, village, and ward administrations, all enterprises, cooperatives, and mass organizations, our entire society and all our people should clearly recognize the merits and contributions of male and female teachers, and must hold in greatest respect all male and female teachers, enhance their social positions, create conditions for their work, and improve their material and cultural life. The education sector and all schools must consider improvements in teachers' livelihood, especially in their living conditions, as the foremost requirement to ensure good teaching, as a burning topic of the day, directly related to the solving of all education issues.

It is our people's requirements that each teacher be imbued with, and carry out with high quality and efficiency, the education objectives, contents, and methods, and turn out skilled, productive labor workers, people with ambition to advance unceasingly, to become qualified professionals, in order to build socialism successfully, and firmly defend our socialist fatherland.

4. Education System

Over the past several decades, we have nearly perfected an education system which, however, still lacks well-matched components, closely enough linked to local requirements. We should now rationally rearrange that system.

Our national education system includes kindergarten, general, professional, vocational middle-school, college, and graduate education. These branches of study are arranged into a system with close coordination among branches and levels of study in each locality, and across the country, with mutual assistance in implementing tasks to attain training objectives, in order to meet requirements to popularize education and trades, to turn out contingents of laborers, workers, and mid-level and higher-level cadres, in all sectors and occupations necessary for socioeconomic development. This education

system must systematically ensure regularly provision of education to meet our people's needs for unceasing study, and to raise the level of cultural knowledge and professional skill of the contingents of laborers and cadres. The education system must be linked to socioeconomic objectives countrywide, and in each locality, train productive labor workers--from basic laborers to technical specialists, scientists, and artists--necessary for our nation-building and national defense in the initial stage of the transitional period. Meanwhile, it must prepare training contingents of productive labor workers for the following stage, that of accelerating, on a large scale, our country's socialist industrialization.

We must arrange our national education system, which includes small systems in each region and locality, especially in districts. All schools, branches and levels of study in each locality, from contents to education methods, must aim to serve the socioeconomic goals of that locality. With close links to localities, the education system must create leading schools for each sector, concentrate primary cadres, equipment, and facilities for the major schools in the capital and in Ho Chi Minh City, to resolutely turn out a high-quality, hard-core contingent of cadres.

To coordinate teaching with research for, and application of, scientific and technological advances, we should build centers, including colleges, research institutes, and production installations. General middle schools, especially general technical middle schools with vocational training, must be linked to those centers. There, we must create conditions for students and workers to pursue their general school studies, while learning a trade. Then, when students cease their schooling and begin work, they can continue to consolidate their studies without being hampered in the promotion of their occupational skills.

Very important, in addition to the formal education, is that we should develop various forms of informal education, such as supplementary education schools and classes, vocational training centers, short-term vocational classes, colleges, and college and seminar classes. The informal education forms of the general school system--commonly known as supplementary education--will, systematically ensure the popularization of basic-level general education, and then general middle-school education, among our country's workers. Informal educational forms of the vocational training system will systematically ensure the popularization of trades among the people and, for the immediate future, among students finishing basic-level general and general middle-school education.

Informal educational forms in the college and higher education systems will regularly provide for those completing general school education, especially the young workforce, in order to meet, increasingly better, our people's need to enhance the level of their cultural, scientific, and technical knowledge.

Our country's status is still one of slow economic growth, a consequence of a long historical period. However, our people have an advanced culture; ours was a once cultured nation. That is an extremely valuable asset, but not all of us have an adequate and keen perception from which to draw the necessary conclusions.

Due to economic shortcomings and weaknesses, negativism in society, and deficiencies in the educational sector in general, our country's education is now facing enormous difficulties, and is limited in many aspects: Serious shortage of schools and classes; greatly inadequate study materials and laboratory experiments; shortage in textbooks and school supplies; the quantity, and especially the quality, of teachers and education management cadres still fail to meet the requirements; somewhat decreasing enthusiasm, and study results, of students in certain localities; still unsatisfactory use of graduates; negative phenomena in education management organs and schools; undue concern of the responsible party and state organs, and of our entire society, about education. These difficulties we must recognize fully and thoroughly, so that proper measures will be devised to systematically overcome them and we shall definitely be able to overcome them. To overcome difficulties we have great advantages: The history of our country; the talents and culture of our people; the victories in our people's wars of resistance; the fruits of our socialist revolution; our country's international prestige; the devotion and talents of the teacher contingent; the intelligence of our students. Let all of us develop the advantages, overcome difficulties, and endeavor to advance, and unceasingly develop, our country's education, in order to accomplish our glorious mission.

I hope that what I have said about will not only be the concern of the comrades in the education sector, but also receive due attention from the responsible cadres in all party and state organs, mass organizations, and so forth.

Finally, on the occasion of the Vietnam Teachers Day, I wish to extend to all male and female teachers and educational management cadres the gratitude, and confidence, of our people for their immensely valuable efforts and contributions.

I cordially hope that you, comrades, will endeavor to make our socialist education flourish, and score increasingly better accomplishments across our country.

CSO: 4209/80

POPULATION, CUSTOMS AND CULTURE

NATIONALITIES COUNCIL CHAIRMAN VISITS PROVINCES

BK241024 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 Nov 84

[Text] The National Assembly's Nationalities Council delegation led by Hoang Truong Minh, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Nationalities Council recently visited and worked with officials in Binh Tri Thien and Quang Nam-Danang provinces. The delegation visited Huong Hoa District, Huong Hoa and Huong Hiep villages, Binh Tri Thien Province, and Tra Minh District and some border areas of Quang Nam-Danang Province. It also visited a number of schools for youths of ethnic minority groups.

At these localities, the delegation heard reports on achievements in economic, cultural, and military development, and on implementation of the party's policy on nationalities in the mountain districts.

Comrade Hoang Truong Minh commended the people in these two provinces for strengthening their solidarity, developing the spirit of self-reliance, accelerating the settlement of nomads, and build a new life in the mountainous zone. He also contributed concrete ideas on orientations for economic development in the two provinces in the years ahead. He urged provinces and districts to pay attention to developing the communications system in the mountains, training and fostering the contingent of nationalities cadres, and satisfactorily implementing party and state policies on nationalities in the new revolutionary stage.

CSO: 4209/80

POPULATION, CUSTOMS AND CULTURE

BRIEFS

TAY, NUNG LANGUAGE BROADCASTS--Radio Ha Bac, a local station some 50 km north of Hanoi, has recently broadcast two more programs in Tay and Nung languages of the ethnic minorities in the province besides the Vietnamese broadcasts. By now, all provinces in the midlands as well as in the mountains have their own local radio stations with programs broadcast in Vietnamese and languages of the ethnic peoples. [Text] [Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 2 Dec 84 BK]

CSO: 4200/219

PUBLICATIONS

BRIEFS

JOURNALISTS TO PUBLISH QUARTERLY REVIEW--Hanoi, 1 Dec (VNA)--The Vietnam Journalists Association will publish a quarterly review called NGUOI LAM BAO (THE JOURNALIST). The first issue which will come out in January 1985 will have 68 pages. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1710 GMT 1 Dec 84 OW]

CSO: 4200/219

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